



# New Mexico Ornithological Society

## Bird Records Committee Submittal Form

---

### New Mexico Rare/Unusual Bird Report

**1. Species:** Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

**2. Number:** 1 male

**3. Location:** Along Highway 304, just north of the village of Contreras in Socorro County.

**4. Date:** 12/17/2014 (on the Five Points CBC).

**5. Time:** 7:20 AM

**6. Reporting observer:**

David L. Hawksworth  
611 Lead Avenue SW Apt. #815  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
[davehawk1@msn.com](mailto:davehawk1@msn.com)

**7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:** Dave Hutton

**8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:** None

**9. Light conditions:** Good; we had no problem viewing the bird.

**10. Optical equipment:** 8X42 binoculars in good condition.

**11. Distance to bird:** 20 yards.

**12. Duration of observation:** Less than a minute; just long enough to ID it.

**13. Habitat:** Typical Chihuahuan Desert; but there were a few ranches/houses nearby with planted trees and shrubs (and likely with corrals, etc.).

**14. Behavior:** It was perched on a telephone line alongside the road.

**15. Description:** I identified this bird as a male Brewer's Blackbird by the: small blackbird body shape; entirely black plumage with a glossy purple or dark blue sheen visible at times; medium-

length tail(longer than a Red-winged Blackbird or starling, but much shorter than grackles); bright yellow iris; and small, sharply-pointed straight bill.

**16. Voice:** None heard.

**17. Similar species:** The only species likely to be confused with Brewer's Blackbird at this time of year are Red-winged Blackbird and European Starling. The lack of a red wing patch and having a yellow iris eliminates Red-winged Blackbird; and the unspotted plumage, longer tail, and smaller bill eliminates winter-plumaged European Starling. Even at first glance without using binoculars, it was clearly too small to be a grackle.

**18. Photographs?** None.

**19. Previous experience with this species:** I have observed this species many, many times previously.

**20. Aids:** None

**21. This description written from:** Memory

**22. Are you positive of your identification?** Yes

**23. Signature, date & time report written:**

/S/ Dave Hawksworth 2/24/15 10:00 AM