



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

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