



## New Mexico Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee Submittal Form

### New Mexico Rare/Unusual Bird Report

This form is intended as a guide in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print in black ink or send electronically. Attach available drawings, photographs (electronic, or slides, prints, video), copies of field notes, etc.; include all photos of obscurely marked species.

1. Common or scientific name: Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 ad. males in breeding plumage):

1 - adult; sex+age unknown; plumage is adult

3. Locality (include County and distance from nearest named town):

Doña Ana County - approx. 1 to 1-½ miles south of Carver Rd. east of  
St. Hwy 478, ¼ mi. south of Holy Cross Retreat Center,  
along dry canal(ditch)

4. Date(s) when seen: Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014

5. Time(s) of day when seen:

approx. 1:00 to 1:30 PM

6. Reporting observer (include middle initial, address, and e-mail address):

Wayne Treers m 1052 La Plata Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88007  
way1mike@yahoo.com

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

Walt Whitford

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:

none

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

clear, sunny day, sun to our side - not interfering with observation

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

binoculars - Vortex 8x42 Viper

11. Distance to bird:

approx. 25 to 30 feet

12. Duration of observation:

approx. 10 minutes

13. Habitat (general and specific):

dry, mesquite and sumac brush along dry canal(ditch)

14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):

bird was perched on top of a sumac bush for entire time of observation

15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):

for a sparrow - larger size; the whole time the bird was facing us before it flew off; clear, whitish middle of lower breast and belly; upper breast and flanks/sides had dark/black spotting, that looked like streaks from a distance, while the spotting from a distance appeared <sup>(dense)</sup> ~~heavy~~ converging in upper breast and dark, there was no evident stand out spot in center of the breast; the tail somewhat longish, but somewhat straight and somewhat squarish on end; did not see side or back of bird before it flew off

16. Voice:

did not

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

the most likely similar species was Song Sparrow, but ruled out because no clear central spot and tail was not as big or somewhat rounded on end as Songsp. Also looked at Savannah, Vesper, and Lark Bunting, but they all had fine to semi-fine streaks on chest and flanks, also the throat of these sparrows were different from Fox Sparrow.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

None

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have only seen one other Fox Sparrow at Perch Dam st. Park

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc., used in identification a) at time of observation; b) after observation: a). Sibley Field Guide to N. American Birds - Western N. Amer.

b). National Geographic Field Guide to N. American Birds and Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion

21. This description written from: notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory.

notes made during observation and memory

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

yes

23. Signature of reporter, along with date and time of writing of this account.

Wayne Tress 1/21/15 10:25 pm

It is emphasized that a request for documentation is not an affront, but is an effort to substantiate a record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for all to evaluate.