

CBC RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION FORM

Submitted as documentation of (check all that apply):

Unusual Species Unusual Date Unusual Habitat

1. **MOST IMPORTANT:** On back of form give complete details of this observation. Use additional sheets as needed. Include information on the bird's plumage, shape, size, vocalizations, habitat, behavior, etc. Describe exactly what you saw; include photocopies of your original notes and sketches. Name the species that you considered ID contenders; explain how you eliminated them.

2. Count Name: Orilla Verde Count Code: NMDV

3. Species Eastern Bluebird Age M=3 Sex f=1 # 4

4. Date (s) of Observation 17 Dec, 2014 Time 1:45 AM to 2:05 PM
 Earlier/Later dates by others, if known _____

5. Place Lower Ranchitos (West edge of Taos) just east of confluence of Rio Fernando
 Nearest Town Taos County Taos and Rio Pueblo

6. Observer Robert Templeton
 Address Box 357, Dixon NM 87527
 Telephone/E-mail 505-579-4095

7. Observation Details:
 Other Observers Tom Jackman (John Lay)
 Optics Used Swarovski 8x42, Kowa 82mm scope
 Distance From Bird ≈ 150 ft Viewing Conditions Backlit, intermittent snow, occasional filtered sun.
 Weather, sky cover Overcast, occasional filtered sun, intermittent snow.
 Photo Taken? No Video? No Sound Recording? No Specimen? No

Are these available to the CBC Regional Editor? _____ Where are they? _____

8. Past Experience: With this or similar species? Extensive w/ Western, Limited (obs < 5) with Eastern.
 9. References or Advice Consulted: Nat geo graphic & Sibley's

10. Was this report done from notes made during or after observation or from memory? Memory

Signature Robert Templeton Date 12-20-2014

Observers please give this form to your compiler. Compilers please send all rare bird forms directly to your regional editor. Contact information for regional editors can be found at: <http://birds.audubon.org/programs/cbc/cbc-regional-editors> or in the latest CBC issue of American Birds on-line under Regional Summaries, sign up at: <http://www.audubon.org/mediaset/cbc-photo-contest> UPLOAD your CBC PHOTOS to the website at: <http://www.audubon.org/mediaset/cbc-photo-contest> and then email them directly to your regional editor along with this form.

Eastern Bluebird; NMOV; Taos, NM; Taos County; Male=3, Female=1

These individuals were observed by Robert Templeton and Tom Jackman. At first we were using binoculars and then switched to scopes.

There was a mixed flock actively moving between trees/shrubs on the south, a 2-foot wide stream and marshy area (Rio Fernando) in the middle and a barbed-wire fence on the north. We were looking west into the sun.

The birds were about 150-200 ft away (measured later on Google Earth). It was heavily overcast and snowing fairly hard when we started observing the male bluebirds that we knew were either Western or Eastern. Because of the backlit, overcast, snowy conditions we were not able to clearly resolve the throats of the males, though we both had the sense they were Easterns. We both changed to scopes. Even with scopes, the poor light prevented us from clearly resolving the throat detail.

This went on for about 15 minutes. Eventually, the snow stopped and the sun's shape was visible through the clouds. When the 3 males flew to the fence on the north side of the field (less backlit), it was now easy to observe the lack of any blue on the throat and a partial rufous band extending towards the back of the neck. We basically both saw these features at the same moment and agreed without doubt that these were Eastern, not Western Bluebirds.

During the period of poor visibility, I repeatedly saw an individual that at first appeared to me as a drab Lazuli Bunting (very white belly). Knowing that it was not a Lazuli, but not having experience with female Eastern Bluebirds, I kept puzzling over the ID of that bird. It was not until that evening, studying the National Geographic Field Guide that I realized that I had observed a female Eastern Bluebird.

Nearby winter records:

NMDI (Count center 16 miles SW of NMOV center): EABL recorded 5 out of 18 years.

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