



Audubon Science  
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[www.christmasbirdcount.org](http://www.christmasbirdcount.org)

## **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: Dixon CBC Count Code: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Species Northern Shrike    Age UK    Sex UK    # 2

4. Date (s) of Observation 12/14/2015 Time 0827 to 0914

Earlier/Later dates by others, if known UK \_\_\_\_\_

5. Place In field across road from #685 house/lot marker, County Road 69

Nearest Town Ojo Sarco    County Rio Arriba

6. Observer Stephen Knox

Address 107 Tunyo St, Los Alamos, NM 87544

Telephone/E-mail (703) 340-0152, steve84911@gmail.com

7. Observation Details:

Other Observers John Lay, Barbara Pollock

Optics Used 3 pair binocs, one SLR with zoom lens

Distance From Bird 20 yds    Viewing Conditions Clear line of sight to birds on a wire

Weather, sky cover Overcast, no precipitation at time of observation

Photo Taken? Y    Video? N    Sound Recording? N    Specimen? N

Are these available to the CBC Regional Editor? Y Where are they? In this document

8. Past Experience: With this or similar species? NSHR is new bird; multiple observations of LOSH in different locations

9. References or Advice Consulted: Sibley 2<sup>nd</sup> ed; Nat Geo 6<sup>th</sup> ed.; iPro smartphone app

10. Was this report done from notes made during or after observation or from memory? After + discussions

Signature /signed/ Stephen O. Knox

Date Jan 12, 2016

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/citizenscience>. 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.

Any questions e-mail us at: [cbcadmin@audubon.org](mailto:cbcadmin@audubon.org)

### **Northern Shrike Observation Details.**

We first sighted two light gray birds sitting on a telephone wire, staring downwards in the manner of those birds that hunt insects, as we approached the field in our area of the CBC. Once there, the birds were not shy and let us approach fairly close. Lighting was not optimal, as we were looking at light gray birds against a bright overcast gray sky at about 8:30 AM. There was ample contrast to identify on the perched bird a black mask, heavy black bill, light gray breast and belly, dark tail, and black shoulders converging at the ends of the primaries. Our first impression in the field was Loggerhead Shrike, and was so recorded. The next day, when viewing the images from John Lay, we could clearly see that the mask was below the eye and did not extend across the forehead, and the presence of mottling/scaling on the breast, all which indicates Northern Shrike. The photos do not show a good profile to assess the bill.

I was able to discuss the sighting on Dec 16, 2015 in person with a more experienced birder, who had declared NSHR on first seeing the images.

Photos from John Lay:





