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

3. Species Gray Catbird Age Ad Sex # 1

4. Date(s) of Observation 12/15/2012 Time 3:42 to 3:44 pm

Earlier/Later dates by others, if known

5. Place 60 yards N. of Rigsby's Bridge on West bank of Rio Grande

Nearest Town Embudo County

6. Observer Chris Chappell

Address 2300 W. Alameda St., Unit B2, Santa Fe, NM 87507

Telephone/E-mail 505-471-4047 chrischappell4@gmail.com

7. Observation Details:
Other Observers Cathy Underwood, Dave Yeamans
Optics Used Nikon Venture Lx 8x42, Swarovski 8x30, Nikon 8x40
Distance From Bird 25 feet Viewing Conditions Diffuse sunlight, front lit

Weather, sky cover mid-30's, partly cloudy, calm, high thin clouds

Photo Taken? yes Video? no Sound Recording? no Specimen? no

Are these available to the CBC Regional Editor? yes Where are they? Dave Yeamans

8. Past Experience: With this or similar species? All observers have seen species before; myself 25 times

9. References or Advice Consulted: Sibley Field Guide

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

Signature Chris Chappell

Date 12/16/2012

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/regional-editors or in the latest CBC issue of American Birds under Regional Summaries. UPLOAD your CBC PHOTOS to the website at http://web1.audubon.org/imagePublic/cbc_form.php and then email them directly to your regional editor.

Any questions e-mail us at: cbcadmin@audubon.org
The bird was perched 15 feet off above the ground in a Russian olive directly adjacent to the river bank. Habitat was tall shrubs at edge of a cottonwood-dominated riparian floodplain 'bosque'. It changed position at least 3 times during our observation, while remaining on the same perch, thus we saw it side-view, rear-view, and front-angle-view. At the end of the observation, it flew a short distance down and away from the river and out of sight into more thick vegetation. The bird was smaller and more delicate than a robin and larger than 2 western bluebirds which landed at the top of the same shrub/tree during the observation. Plumage was mostly medium-dark gray with almost virtual no contrast or other markings except for the following. Distinct black cap not extending down to eyes (supercilium thus same gray as most of plumage and contrasting with black eyes). Dark chestnut undertail coverts. Narrow edges of flight feathers appeared slightly lighter gray than most of wings. Tail appeared dark but not sure whether it was same gray as body or more blackish (as illustrated in Sibley). Bill, eyes, and feet were blackish. Bill was medium-long, thrush-like in overall build, moderately narrow and narrowing gradually toward tip, which black. The culmen had a small down-curved tip. Wing tics extended slightly beyond rump. Tail was relatively long and narrow (longer relatively than that of robin or bluebird). Perched posture angled above horizontal, not upright.

All 3 observers independently recognized the bird as Gray Catbird. Townsend’s Solitaire differs in lack of black cap, presence of prominent wingbars and eye ring, as well as different posture and behavior and white outer tail feathers. Black Phoebe is smaller, with white on lower underparts, no black cap, different behavior and posture. Canyon Towhee similar in size and posture but totally different plumage and bill shape.
photo 1/09/53
15' up perched
3' 4" Z

mostly busy — blk cap
— slight curve hook at tip
liter grey edges flight feathers
med dark grey wingtips
long narrow tail
stiffly rounded
dark chestnut undertail coverts

2 min. observing
distance to bird is 25'
silent
occ. flick of wings

compare to: Canyon Towhee
— wht belly; blk phase
solitaire
same — west bluebirds
area

1/7.20.54

Cathy Underwood
lyricist/summer

Dave Yearman — once before

no wing bars
cap extending only as far
east top of supercilium
so qalors + supercilium
semigrey as rest of plumage,
contrasting w/ black eye
no bill trough-like, rather
narrow, medium length, with
small down-curved tip go upper
rimmable
6q 3.5 1R 5.5 Bridge on W side of A
Grande
No wind, mid 30's
after sun rise, front left