



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. When completed, mail to: Dr. Sartor O. Williams III, New Mexico Bird Records Committee, 1819 Meadowview Dr NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104-2511. <mailto:sunbittern@earthlink.net> Thank you.

1. Common or scientific name: **Hooded Merganser**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 ad. males in breeding plumage): **4 females, overall plumage dark and brownish, black**
3. Locality (Include County and distance from nearest named town): **Taos, County, Pillar along old 590 4.4 miles upstream**
4. Date(s) when seen : **December 17th, 2014**
5. Time(s) of day when seen: **Approximately 12:15am**
6. Reporting observer (include middle initial, address, and e-mail address): **Steve T Wickliffe, 2346 B 35th St. Los Alamos, 87544, stevewickliffe@comcast.net**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: **Steve Knox, Christine Ponko**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: **Steve Knox**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Overcast and snowing**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Pentax 8x43 DCF**
11. Distance to bird: **70 yards**
12. Duration of observation: **3 to 4 minutes**

13. Habitat (general and specific): **Rio Grande river, along the far bank below island**
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): **Birds were feeding / resting in the rivers**
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): **Overall dark bird darker colored bill, bill from observed distance had characteristic merganser bill and bird significantly smaller overall than the more abundant, Common merganser seen often on this count.**
16. Voice: **N/A**
17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations): **See above, also head shape of the Hooded much different than the Common.**
18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):
19. Previous experience with this species: **Seen many of the three Mergansers normally found throughout the US**
20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc., used in identification a) at time of observation; b) after observation: **Nat Geo Field Guide to the Birds of North America**
21. This description written from: notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory: **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: **Steve Wickliffe 12-21-14, 8:00pm**

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.