

A

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: BRAMBLING
(Vernacular Name)TRINGILLA MONTIFRINGILLA

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): Oct. 30:31; Nov 1; 2; 3, & 4, 1983Number of birds seen: One Sex: Male Plumage: First year maleLocality: 465 Gold Camp Rd., Bear Cr. Canyon Elevation: 6500'Nearest town: Colorado Springs, Colorado County: El PasoTime(s) observed: See attached sheet "A" for times & duration of observationsDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): see above

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

See attached sheet "B" for observers

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)
See attached sheet "B" for independent observersLight conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
Bird observed in many conditions of light during observation periods.

All days were sunny. Part of days were overcast.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Normally bird was too close to see
except with naked eye. Used Bushnell 8 x 40 binoculars when not too close.
Distance, and how measured: From as close as 5 ft. to 18 ft. normally. 1 time at
distance estimated at 50 ft. Average distance observed under 10 ft.If photographed, type of equipment and film: By Dominic Bartol - Nikon F camera
with 300 mm vivitar. Vivitar 253 strobe. Color film Ektachrome.Who else photographed the bird? Dominic Bartol, Richard Bunn, Charlie Chase
et al not listed.

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

The bird fed exclusively on the ground eating millet. It would pick up individual seeds off a flagstone patio or flick the leaves away with its beak to get seeds under lilac bushes near edge of patio. Fed with Juncos and House Finches with no trouble. Always flew up into bushes when Scrub Jays came around. Normally could only see white rump when bird flew. Sometimes when sitting in bush a small white line would show on rump.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern.
Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

Original identity - about size of Cassin's Finch. The orange red color on breast and shoulder, 2 wing bars, bill and feeding habit suggested the Brambling.

Later Observations - Bill: Lower mandible yellowish with black tip. Upper mandible dark on lower sides and end. Whitish on top. Seed eating bill similar to House Finches.

Head: Showed a small crown at back of head when sitting in the bushes.

Description (continued):

Habitat cont'd - Lilac bushes had shed some leaves which were on ground under bushes. Bird flew to a Gumbel's Oak near patio (20 ft. away). Also flew into a Ponderosa Pine 1 time (60 Ft away).

2 other birders identified the bird as a young male Brambling on the first day. A suitable picture was not available the first day. 2 individuals who had seen the species previously identified it also as a male Brambling the 2nd day. Later (3rd day) it was identified as a wild first year male by Charlie Chase.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

No song or call heard.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Around dwelling on south sloping hillside. Observed on ground on flagstone patio under feeders. Patio extends from house south 9 ft. Lilac bushes (2 ft. wide) next to patio on south side. (Cont'D above under desc) How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

My wife and I were recording the field marks on a cassette tape. About three minutes into the tape I said "I think it is a Brambling". I had studied pictures of it prior to trips to Europe and Alaska. I had seen the Chaffinch and Bullfinch in Europe and knew the bird was of the same family but that this bird was of a different coloration.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? see above.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: Birds of Britain & Europe, Bruun
Richard H. Pough - Audubon Western Birds Guide 1957 plate #32

b) after observation:

Armstrong, R.H. 1980, Birds of Alaska P 271 American Birds Vol 37 #1
T. A. & Gunnrud, P. 1983 First record of Brambling in N.D. from memory
This report was written from reports made during chase after observation from memory
Date and time report was written: November 7th, 1983 from 6 to 9 am.

Reporting observer: E.J. Curry, Jr. Signature: E.J. Curry, Jr.

Address: PO Box 6009, Colorado Springs, Co, 80934

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Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Brambling : Fringilla montifringilla
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 10/31/83 Time Bird Seen: 10:50 AM to 11:00 AM

Locality: Lower Gold Camp Road - Ed + Martha Curry's

Colorado Springs El Paso Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x20 binocular

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♀ * Plumage: Fall

Light conditions: Fair

Distance from bird, and how measured: 10'-14' (barrel on camera lens)

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Bird fed on ground in one spot (millet) and also was observed to use its bill 3 times to flip over leaves. It did not grab leaves. It used bill to as a bar to turn over log. The bird then flew about a 0.E. Jones away from the Brambling's feeding station

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Bird was seen feeding on the ground beneath trees & other bush just under fence with which was next to the house. It flew directly to tree about 2 feet off ground when Gratz Jay flew near.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

about 67 others saw bird throughout the week (See Curry's list)

APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field. This bird was about the size of the Dark-eyed Junco with which it associated.

The most distinctive feature were: yellow-orange breast ending abruptly at the white belly. The tail was deeply notched the tail feathers edged in white. The crown was mottled, dark and looked scaly (with aid of binoculars) (and just dark w/out binos) Distinct dark brown streaks extended from back of crown to nape. Bill color ~~was~~ was yellow upper mandible with brownish lower mandible. Wing pattern was most distinctive feature w/ orange-red greater & lesser wing coverts, a chestnut wing bar, followed by a lighter orange band across the secondaries. (rump color was never visible although I looked for it) Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Oriental Greenfinch - has extensive yellow wing patch not orange broken by distinct wingbar
 - lacks mottling on crown
 - lacks faint streaks from crown to nape

Prior experience with this and similar species:

None

This report was written from notes made during after observation; from memory .

Name (print) : William R Maynard

Mailing address: 924 Cheyenne Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Signature: William R Maynard

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
 c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
 Denver Museum of Natural History
 City Park
 Denver, CO 80205

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

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Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Brambling | Fringilla montifringilla
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): November 1, 1983Number of birds seen: one Sex: male Plumage: 1st winterLocality: west of Colorado SpringsElevation: 6000'Nearest town: Colorado SpringsCounty: El PasoTime(s) observed: 3:00 to 4:00Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): up to ten min. for one observationOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
Judy & Doug Ward, Mike Middleton, Barry Knapp, Steve & Diane Larson
and Ed & Martha Curry.Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)
Richard Bunn and Charles Chase.Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
overcast, no shadowsOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7 X 50 Binocs and 20X spotting scopeDistance, and how measured: two to five metres, estimated

Ricoh w/ 400mm Kodachrome 64

If photographed, type of equipment and film: Pentax ME w/ 70-150mm, Kodachrome 64Who else photographed the bird? Richard Bunn, Charles Chase, and Doug WardDescribe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):
The bird was feeding strictly on the ground. It fed by probing its head under fallen leaves then picking up a seed it would throw its head back scattering the leaves. It did not scratch like a Rufous sided Towhee does. The bird was very nervous and skittish. The Brambling would flee from Scrub Jays and sometimes Juncos.Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern.
Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

The bird was about the size and shape of a White-winged Junco subspecies but slimmer bodied with a slightly shorter tail and thicker neck.

The overall color was a rusty buff.

The crown was dark buff with speckling of black. It had a black crown stripe beginning above each eye and joining on the back of the head. Two black nape stripes

Description (continued):
came off the back of the crown stripe, the nape stripes faded at the base of the neck. The area between the nape stripes was a buffy white. The cheeks were a buffy gray. There was a small black spot behind the eye. There was about one quarter of an eyering in front and above the eye. The forehead and lores were buff colored. The chin was buff colored with a small black whisker mark. There was a dirty white necklace ~~extending~~ extending all the way around the neck. The necklace separated the chin from the rusty breast and side. The rust was most intense on the sides of the breast.

The rust of the breast faded to a dirty white on the belly, flanks, and undertail coverts. Also on the flanks was two lines of three or four black spots. There appeared to be a small amount of rust ~~of~~ around the vent.

The upper back was dark rusty buff with lines of black scaling. The rump was white which extended up the back to a point where the scapulars of each wing meet.

The wings were an overall dark grey with light grey feather edgings of secondaries and primaries. There were two rusty wing bars. The upper wingbar appeared to have the rust color laying over the white. The rust color was probably the feather edging.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

None heard.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:
Foothill Canyon with Scrub Oak with scattered Ponderosa Pines.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

~~Very~~ different from any birds normally found in this area.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?
First time for the Brambling.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

- at time of observation: Birds of Britain and Europe(Larousse) ; Field Guide to the Birds (Peterson)
- after observation: Rare Birds of the West Coast(Roberson) ; Nat'l Geographic's Birds of North America.

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation from memory
Date and time report was written: Nov. 5, 1983 ; 9:30 am

Reporting observer: Laurens Fay Halsey Signature: Laurens R. Halsey

Address: 422 Bluebird Ave, Longmont, CO 80501

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CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

DESCRIPTION (continued):

When sitting a small white wing patch could be seen near the base of the primaries.

The tail was dark grey with light feather edgings giving the tail a streaked appearance.

The bill was the shape of a Pine Siskin's bill but thicker and stronger looking.
Upper Mandible- Culmen was horned color(greyish yellow), the rest of the upper mandible was black.

Lower Mandible- base was black, the rest of the lower mandible was horned color.

I noticed missing or messed up feathers at the base of the throat. Otherwise the bird was in smooth and clean plumage, and buff or lighter grey feathered edging to nearly all feathers on the body.

SPECIES: Brambling (Fringilla montifringilla).

LOCATION: Ed and Martha Curry residence, Gold Camp Rd., Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colo. (Bear Creek Canyon, elevation about 1990 meters; approx. 38°49'34" N. Lat., 104°53'00" W. Long., in T14S, R67W, Section 15, according to the USGS 7½' topographic quad, Manitou Springs, 1961.)

DATE: Tuesday 1 November 1983, 1500 to 1630 MST.

OBSERVERS: Barry Knapp (author of this report, 4695 Osage Dr., Boulder, Colo. 80303), Diane and Steve Larson, Mike Middleton, Larry Halsey, Doug and Judy Ward.

CIRCUMSTANCES: The bird was observed for extended periods of time at distances of from 2 to 5 meters (usually too close for binoculars) in good afternoon light on a mild, partly sunny fall day with no adverse weather or viewing conditions. The habitat was that of a mature scrub oak foothills canyon, with some conifers and junipers and a minimum amount of residential landscaping.

DESCRIPTION: A finch/sparrow-type bird, slightly larger than most of the Dark-eyed Juncos with which it associated. The bill was conical and pale brown or tan in color. Breast and shoulders were a rich ochre-orange. Rump white, highly visible in flight. On the head were two rather broad black stripes, one on either side above the supercilium extending down the nape to the back. At the top of the nape these stripes broadened and met, giving a wreath-like look, like the ♀ illustrated in the Pough Western Bird Guide (ref. 1). The crown was mottled black and brown, as was the back, though less distinctly. The cheek was gray and blended into a grayish collar, reminiscent of the collar on the Clay-colored Sparrow. The tail was dark, rather long, and forked. On each flank there were two parallel rows of black spots, like the fall ♂ shown in the National Geographic Society Field Guide (ref. 2), only the spots were not quite as large as shown there. The underparts were white or pale buff.

In summary, the bird seemed to be somewhat of a cross between the NGS's ♀ and fall ♂ and Pough's ♀. The color of the breast and shoulders, and the flank spotting were like the NGS's fall ♂, while the back was like the NGS's ♀, and the head like Pough's ♀. Finally, the white wing bar on the median wing coverts shown in all three illustrations was not very evident, whereas the white at the base of the primaries shown on the NGS fall ♂ was more evident than shown there. The plumage was in good condition, showing no evidence of excessive wear as would be expected in a previously-caged bird, and the claws were not excessively long.

BEHAVIOR: Fed on millet seeds from the ground beneath the Curry's feeders, occasionally scratching the leaves and humus with its feet like a towhee. Never came to feeding or watering trays (suspended off the ground). When alarmed, it would hop up less than a meter into the lower branches of the lilac shrubs under which it fed. It seemed to tolerate the presence of juncos, House Finches, and even chipmunks, but would fly off--usually for several minutes--when Scrub Jays flew in. The voice was never heard.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS GENUS: None.

REFERENCES: (1) Audubon Western Bird Guide, by Richard Pough, Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y., 1957. (2) Field Guide to the Birds of North America, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., 1983.

Barry G Knapp, 2 Nov '83