

APPENDIX II

53-83-60

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.

AT LEAST
THRU 1/13/84
Dates (s): 19 Dec thru 23 Dec 83 Time Bird Seen: 2:14pm to 2:26 1st ident.
(many other 2-10 min periods, total time over 1 hr)

Locality: Residential yard of Marje and Bob Foland, 6738 Lakeview Drive,

Boulder, Boulder county, Colorado 80303

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7x35 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: female? Plumage: fall

Light conditions: Various; cloudy to hazy sunlight.

Distance from bird, and how measured: 15 feet, estimated.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Flys into a locust tree in the company of House Finches, Dark-eyed Juncos, American Tree and White-crowned Sparrows, then drops to the ground feeding on scattered wild-bird seed below a hanging feeder.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Well-trimmed county subdivision with scattered deciduous and conifer trees and scrubs.

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

Freeman Hall 305 Bellevue, Boulder, CO 80302 (took photographs)

Peter Gent, Hugh Kingery, Bob Andrews, many others.

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. Same length as Amer Tree Sp but stockier with shorter tail; buffy-orange breast, shoulders, and wing bars; dark gray crown flecked with small dark markings; gray nape; somewhat broken dark stripe borders crown and nape; gray face shading to buffy-gray at crown stripe, dark gray ear patch; eye, legs, conical bill dark; close rows of dark markings on buff back; white lower back and rump shades to light buff at uppertail coverts, small dark spots on lower rump; two rows of faint dark streaks on buffy flanks; whitish belly, white under-tail coverts; dark wings, small white wing patch just below lower wing bar; dark forked tail.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Orange breast and white rump combined are unique in finches.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Observed immature male Brambling in Colorado Springs, CO on 2 November 1983.

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

Name (print) : Robert Jickling

Mailing address: 310 Skylark Way, Boulder, CO 80303

Signature: *Robert Jickling*

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. 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)

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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): 12/17/83 - 12/25 + still coming every day Time Bird Seen: 8:00 to 4:30 ^{coming & going all day - more often on cold days.}
Locality: 6738 LAKEVIEW DR, BOULDER, CO 80303
Feeding on ground under feeder in back yard.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Pentax 10x24 compact binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: F? Plumage: Winter (immature?)

Light conditions: Varied but very good at times

Distance from bird, and how measured: 25' ± from window to feeder

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Would fly into tree, perch for a bit & then drop to ground in midst of juncos & tree sparrows. While feeding did not pick on other birds but would not be pushed around. Not awfully jumpy or shy. Never alone - always with flock.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Yard between house & garden. Quite open - only mid-size locust & maple tree & other small trees & bushes.

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

Freeman Hall

Bob Tickling

Paul Julian

Hugh Kingery

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.

Orangey-buff breast, throat, shoulder + between two black wing bars tinged with white. White spot on wing edge below second wing bar, white lower back + rump with some black spots toward tail which is mainly black with slight white edging on feathers. Belly + under tail white. Head light gray with dark gray cheeks patch + light gray eye ring. Two wide black marks from crown down nape to back, slightly parted between crown + nape. Crown darker gray with black flecking. Beak strong black, conical, sharp + larger than sparrows. Back buffy with regular black spots (scaly). Black whiskers on sides of throat, Notched tail. Looked a bit heavier bodied but about same length as tree sparrows with which it was feeding on ground. Likes sunflower seeds.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard, including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Heard no call.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Have never seen other sparrow-sized bird with orangey breast + white rump.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

None

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

Name (print) : MARJORIE FOLAND

Mailing address: 6738 LAKEVIEW DR, BOULDER, CO, 80303

Signature: Marjorie Foland

Return Form To:

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



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

23 July 1984

Mr. Peter Gent
Chairman, Records Committee, CFO
55 South 35th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80303

Dear Mr. Gent:

The Brambling records from Colorado (and elsewhere) last winter are most exciting to me, since, of all the Palearctic species that occur in Alaska, this species is one I am particularly interested in.

The four photographs you sent all appear to me to be of females, but ageing them is difficult. Judging from the shape of the black area on mantle feathers, I would guess that the bird in the color photographs is not in its first winter. I can make no such guess about the other individual. The species is monotypic.

Thank you for sharing the photos with us; I hope the comments above will be of some help to you.

Sincerely yours,

A.A. Gibson

Daniel D. Gibson
University of Alaska Museum
907 Yukon Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701