

IBRC Rarity Form Checklist

Not all these items will be seen or noted, and they are not all necessary for a correct identification, but excluding something seen may lessen the value of your documentation. Use this checklist as a reminder of items to include in your report and utilize as much space as necessary to answer all questions fully, either by computer or in hard copy.

Locality

- county, jurisdiction, town, city
- place name, park, wildlife area, address, road intersection, etc.

Habitat

- field, forest, desert, sage, water, backyard feeder, etc.

Conditions

- Weather conditions; sky/cloud cover
- Wind speed and direction
- Temperature
- Precipitation (snow, rain, hail, sleet, drizzle, fog)
- Water/ice, depth, waves
- Length of sighting
- Optics: binoculars/scope; model(s), power
- Camera, lens, film/digital
- Distance to bird
- Sun location in relation to you and bird
- What parts of the bird could not be seen

Description

- which bird family does this individual belong to and why
- posture, size, shape, structure
- Head: shape, colors, pattern (e.g., stripes)
- Bill: length, shape, color
- Eye: color, eye ring, eye stripe, eyebrow
- Upperparts: nape, back, rump
- Tail: colors, shape, length
- Legs: color, length
- Underparts: throat, breast, belly, flanks, vent
- Wings: colors, wing bars, length, wing linings

Behavior

- Feeding method
- Vocalization
- Flight pattern
- Preening or sleeping
- Other birds present? Comparisons?
- Interactions with other birds?

Experience

- With this species or similar species
- Years actively birding
- Localities birded where this species occurs