

Species: NORTHERN WHEATEAR

Record No. 765-11-07

Location: PISTOL RIVER
County: CURRY
Date(s): SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

Reporters	details	slides	prints	tapes
TIM RODENKIRK	A			

Specimen no. & location _____

Accepted 9-0
verified _____
Single rept. sighting ✓
Multiple rept. sighting _____

Not accepted _____
origin questionable _____
exotic not estab. _____

Records split _____

Records combined _____

Disposition

Secretary's File
Main File A
Slide File _____
Print File _____
Tape File _____

Duplicate File
details A
slides _____
prints _____
tapes _____

Date reporter(s) notified: 2-28-12

765-11-07 A

RARE BIRD REPORT
Submitted by Tim Rodenkirk

Species: **Northern Wheatear**

Date of Sighting: 17 September 2011

Time Found: 0930

Length of Time Observed: five minutes

Distance to Bird: as close as ten feet

Number, Age, Sex: one non-breeding plumaged adult/first fall?

Observer: Tim Rodenkirk

Other Observers: None.

Location: On a fencepost in an open pastureland within 200 hundred feet of the Pistol River and just down the road from the tiny hamlet of Pistol River, Curry Co, Oregon.

Habitat: The bird was seen flycatching from a wooden fencepost directly adjacent to the Pistol River Road. There was open pastureland on either side of this road with basically no trees or other high vegetation for a couple hundred feet.

Description: When I first saw the bird from a distance it looked rather like a Western Bluebird and was about the same size. Once it sallied downward to grab some food I quickly noticed the huge white rump patch and dark tail tip and immediately was absolutely certain on its ID. Once it flew back to the fencepost I was able to note the following details:

- Crown, nape and mantle were a light gray color.
- The tertials and secondaries were dark with cinnamon edging. There was a slight wing bar but it wasn't very striking and was light in color.
- The primaries and tail appeared black on the perched bird. The primaries had a little buffy edging also, but the black was much more pronounced.
- The chest, upper and lower belly and flanks were a buffy, cinnamon color.
- The tip of the tail on the underside of the bird was black for about the last inch or so.
- The side of the head and cheeks area was a grayish cinnamon, sort of a mix of the crown and belly color.
- There was a distinct white supercilium above the eye on the bird and it had a rather small, narrow dark (black) beak.

Vocalization/Behavior: it sallied out for insects very much like the Western Bluebirds do I have seen along the south coast. The flight is generally downwards with an arc to its prey- sort of a reverse J. I watched it flycatch several times before I turned around to walk the ½ mile back to my car where my phone and camera were. I didn't get back for a half hour and by then the bird had completely disappeared. I looked for another hour and a half and could not relocate it. Russ Namitz looked for it much later in the PM but had no luck either. As far as I know, no one else looked for the bird. What the heck is the south coast coming to!?

Similar Species: I can't think of any other bluebird looking passerine species with such a LARGE white rump patch. It like screams- I'm a WHEATEAR!

References: I found my lifer in September of 2010 in Coos County and had three days to study it. I never even glimpsed in a field guide after seeing this bird, I knew exactly what it was almost as soon as I spied it.

Light/Weather: Sunny and 70's. I had the bird in good light, sun at my side, and was able to get as close as 10 feet and watch it flycatch.

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