

RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION
Records of Vermont Birds

The following form has been prepared to encourage full documentation, when requested, of rare or unseasonal birds in the state of Vermont. These reports are put into a permanent file and should be as detailed as possible. New reports are reviewed annually by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which evaluates records for their acceptability to future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list.

Please print or type

SPECIES: **WILLOW PTARMIGAN**

NUMBER OBSERVED: **1**

OBSERVER MAKING REPORT: OTHER OBSERVERS (and addresses if available)

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LOCATION: (place, township, county) ROUTE 2, ACROSS FROM FAIRBANKS SCALES, ST. JOHNSBURY, VT

DATE: 05/08/2014

TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 3:45 PM; APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES

DISTANCES FROM BIRD: Maximum __50FT__ Minimum __6FT__

WEATHER: OVERCAST

wind direction _____ wind speed _____

sky cover _____ light in relation to observer's position temperature _____

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: (make, power, etc.) SONY ERICSSON ANDROID PHONE

OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:
MUSEUM SPECIMENS

OTHER DOCUMENTATION: Photo __X__ Tape Recording _____ Specimen _____

If yes to the above, where is this information deposited? _____ NEK AUDUBON _____

HABITAT: (be as detailed as possible, include associated bird species) DEGRADED DITCH WITH WILLOW SAPLINGS AND GRASSES...USUALLY WET AT THIS TIME OF YEAR

BIRD'S BEHAVIOR: (feeding actions, manner of flight, displays or interactions, reaction to observer) BIRD WAS VERY APPROACHABLE AND DID NOT TRY TO FLY AWAY. IT KEPT WALKING AWAY AS I APPROACHED IT, SO I TOOK A MOVIE INSTEAD OF PHOTOS. GRASS MADE IT HARD TO SEE THE BIRDS FEET AND LEGS AND UNDERTAIL COVERTS. STILLS OF THE MOVIE SHOW THE

FEATHERED FEET, HOWEVER. THE BIRD GOT EDGY TOWARDS THE END OF THE MOVIE SO I STOPPED PURSUING IT. I RETURNED TO THE MUSEUM AND CONTACTED THE PRESIDENT OF NEK AUDUBON TO LET HIM KNOW WHERE IT WAS LOCATED. IT WAS MY TURN TO WORK THE FRONT DESK SO WAS UNABLE TO PUT OUT A NOTICE OR UPLOAD THE MOVIE/PICTURES.

VOCALIZATION: (song or calls) NONE THAT I CAN RECALL

DESCRIPTION: (Describe what you actually saw during the observation. We hope that observers will take field notes during the observation and before consulting field guides, etc. Additional pages with sketches and copies of field notes are encouraged.) CHICKEN LIKE BIRD MOVING THROUGH THE DITCH FEEDING ON WILLOW BUDS. HABITAT WAS GREATLY DEGRADED ALONG HIGHWAY SHOULDER. ROCKY AND HILLY WITH EVERGREENS HIGHER UP THE SLOPE. HABITAT WAS BETTER ACROSS THE ROAD WHERE THE BIRD WAS FIRST DISCOVERED.

Relative size and shape: GROUSE SIZE

Head (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape): RED/ORANGE WATTLE OVER EYE, OTHERWISE WHITE. MAY HAVE HAD SOME SLIGHT MOTTLING

Feet and Bill (shape, color, length): BILL BLACK AND SMALL; FEET & LEGS FEATHERED WHITE

Upper back: WHITE

Lower back and rump: WHITE

Wings (shape, length, markings): WHITE

Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts: COULDN'T SEE UNDERTAIL COVERTS. EVERYTHING APPEARED WHITE

Tail (shape, length, markings): TAIL NEVER OPENED, REMAINED NARROW

IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?

LEUCISTIC SPRUCE GROUSE IT SEEMED TOO OPEN AND DEGRADED A HABITAT FOR A SPRUCE GROUSE WHEN THERE IS SO MUCH GOOD HABITAT IN THE AREA! THERE WAS AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF WHITE REFUSE IN THE AREA WHICH MAY HAVE MISLEAD THE BIRD INTO CHECKING IT OUT.

COMMENTS: (was age or sex determined?, etc.) MALE

This report was written from notes taken during _____ immediately after __X__ the observation, or written from memory _____ (please attach copies of notes if available)

NAME (print)_MARY BETH PRONDZINSKI__SIGNATURE (not req'd)_____

MAILING ADDRESS __FAIRBANKS MUSEUM_____

DATE __5/14/2014__

Return electronically (preferred) to: vbrc@vtcostudies.org or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055

Additional Material Available and Added by VBRC:

Link to Video: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10152121019351409>

Link to image of tail from video: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/vtcostudies/15418731981/>