

ACCEPTED 7-0

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

rec'd 11-12-97v

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

Species: Varied Thrush | Ixoreus naevius
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): 16 December 1995

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male Plumage: Adult

Locality: Colorado State Forest Service Nursery on Laporte Ave. Elevation: ~5100

Highest town: Ft. Collins County: Larimer

Time(s) observed: 0915 m 16 December; may contact other observers for their specifics

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 45 seconds on 16 December 1995

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

David Leatherman Phone # (970) 416-0193
~~2111~~ Address below

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

David Leatherman
612 Stover #7
Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Bill Lisowsky (970) 227-6827
2919 Silverplume Drive
Ft. Collins, CO 80526

John Barber (970) 484-9791
1700 Clearview Ct.
Ft. Collins, CO 80521

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
It was an overcast day with no intense glare or shadow. The sun was behind the bird (the bird was between the sun and I) but I wasn't looking directly into the sun and it was soft with the overcast anyway. There was good color saturation.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Minolta 10x50 wide angle 6.5° binoculars

Distance, and how measured: 20 yards was stepped off from point of observation to location of bird

If photographed, type of equipment and film: N/A

Who else photographed the bird? N/A

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

I saw the bird sitting in top of a russian olive tree with 2 American Robins. It sat there for about 45 seconds before flying off to the south by itself. The robins didn't accompany it. The bird's flight seemed to be more erratic than that of a robin. It seemed to "zig-zag" from side to side and undulate like a goldfinch. The bird was not relocated that day. Subsequent observers stated the bird was rather skunky and shy, unlike robins and bluebirds and Solitaires.

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 same size as the robins I observed it with in the russian olive. There were no appreciable sized differences. The first thing that got my attention was the orange eyebrow and black mask. After recognizing this marks I realized I probably was seeing a Varied Thrush. The black breast band was the next mark I looked for and observed. The breast and belly were clearly orange. I remember Dave Leatherman once telling me how exquisite the underparts of this bird species are so the next thing I keyed in on was the powder blue "scalops" on the lower belly. At this point the bird (which I had been observing in profile) turned away from me. I noticed how much darker-barked this bird was than

Description (continued):

The nearby American Robins. The back, rump, and tail were a uniform deep blue/gray. I did not observe the orange wing bars on this bird, though it was the first thing Leatherman noticed about this bird. My inexperience with the species and the shock of seeing a new species probably distracted me somewhat from methodically looking at all the field marks (or at least it wasn't the thing that imprinted in my brain as being the most striking). To recap I first got into the bird when I saw the orange eyebrow, black mask and orange breast ^{and belly} separated by a black band. I then concentrated on the powder blue "scallops" on the lower belly because I remember being told how beautiful they were.

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

N/A

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

The bird was in a nursery with a tremendous variety of trees and shrubs. There were lots of berry bushes and Russian olives. The nursery is arranged into hedgerows with open fields in between the rows for tree growing. The hedgerows where the thrush was observed were predominately ponderosa pine mixed with Russian olives. The bird was seen in a Russian olive.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

I eliminated American Robin, and the bluebirds because the bird showed an orange eyebrow and a black breast band across and orange breast and belly. It was too large to be a bluebird of any sort and too large and strikingly-marked to be one of the Cathartes or thrushes or Wood Thrush. The color pattern and chunky, thrush-like appearance also eliminated Townsend's Solitaire which would also have a longer tail.

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

I have no previous experience with Varied Thrush but have experience with all other similar species such as American Robin, bluebirds, solitaire, etc.

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

a) at time of observation: NONE

b) after observation: National Geographic Guide (Birds of North America); Peterson Western Field Guide; Birds of Kansas II; I used these references to confirm what I saw was a Varied Thrush and to reinforce the sighting in my mind.

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation from memory _____
Date and time report was written: 3 January 1996 - 8:00 pm

Reporting observer: David C. Ely Signature: David P. Ely

Address: 4501 E. Boardwalk Dr. #L-2 Ft. Collins, CO 80525

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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