

ACCEPT 7-0

CFO-ORC-FILE# \_\_\_\_\_

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Rcd 2/99 upl

**Species:** Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)**Date:** 01 Jan 99**Number of birds seen:** 1**Sex:** Male**Locality:** Yuma county, Colorado. Found along the Republican River east of Bonny reservoir just east of the intersection of LL.5 and 4 Roads (on the south side of the river).**Elevation:****Nearest town:** Hale**County:** Yuma**Time observed:** 11:30 am**Duration of observation:** 3 minutes**Other observers with you:** Lisa Marchet**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** none**Light conditions:** bright overcast skies**Optical equipment:** Leica 10x42 binoculars**Distance from bird:** 40 feet**Describe the bird's behavior:** The bird appeared somewhat weary of my presence. Would not allow me to approach closer than 40 feet and watched me continuously as I approached. The bird flew 3 times and perched in a similar position and height in the branches of med. sized trees (25 feet). I followed the bird each time and was able to obtain very good looks before the bird disappeared in dense cover.**Describe the bird:** I first noticed a robin-sized bird in the upper 1/3 of a 25 foot high tree with no binoculars. I got on the bird with binos and immediately saw a bright orange throat which caught my attention and I then noticed a black ear patch and orange eyebrow which gave the bird a "masked" appearance. At this time the bird was facing away from me at an angle, looking back towards me. I then noticed the back coloration and pattern, which appeared an even gray with varying amounts of orange and gray in the wings. At this point the bird flew away from me. I called Lisa (who was birding nearby) while watching the birds flight direction without binoculars. We followed in this direction and found the bird perched in the branches of another tree. We approached within 45 feet and took note of the same characteristics mentioned above along with better views of the wing pattern which showed two orange wingbars. After 1 minute the bird flew again and was relocated a short distance away and viewed briefly (20 seconds) before flying into a dense stand of tall shrubs/trees.**Describe the bird's song and call if heard:** No vocalizations were heard.**Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:** Tall shrubs dominated the area with interspersed wetlands (frozen over) where cattails were present. Taller trees of unk. sp. (deciduous) with Cottonwoods were also present to a lesser extent. The Republican river was within close proximity.**How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:** The size and behavior of our bird was very similar to that of an American Robin but we eliminated AMRO by the very different facial pattern and lack of wingbars. The very unlikely Siberian Accentor was eliminated by the much smaller size and lack of wingbars.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:** I have previously lived and conducted bird surveys in Washington state where the Varied Thrush was encountered (mostly by song/call) very often. I have also observed this bird in Muir Woods State Park, CA in winter. I have not ever seen this bird in Colorado.

**List books if they helped in your identification:**

**This report was written from notes taken during** 01 Jan 99

**Reporting observer:** Peter Gaede

**Signature:** 

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