

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

Rec'd 12/28/01 (R)

2001-133

CFO-RC FILE X:

ACCEPTED

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) **Varied Thrush** (Scientific Name) *Ixoreus naevius*

Date(s) of occurrence: 12/25/01

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: F Plumage: Adult Female

Exact location: (From Bill Kaempfer) The Varied Thrush was on the property of CU-South Campus. Turn off from South Boulder Road just west of US 36 into the access labeled Rick's Tennis Camp. Drive in keeping to the right at the Y and park by the gate. The bird was seen toward the SW corner of the loop trail the starts out from this spot.

Head west through a pedestrian gap in the fence, and follow the path as it curves to the south. There will be houses and apartments to the west, and brush and trees to the east. After about a quarter mile, the trail veers west, entering a "cul-de-sac" area. To the west is a mown grass field, and to the south of that is a brush and tree lined ditch. The thrush was seen along this ditch, in a tree above it, and flying to a tree behind a red house on the hill to the south.

County: Boulder Nearest town: Boulder Elevation: ~ 5300 feet

Length of observation: approx. About 2 minutes Time(s) of observation: 9:55 a.m.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: none

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Gillian Brown, Eric Zorawowicz, Gregg Goodrich, Peter Gent, others?

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Sunny morning, good light on bird at times, especially when it flew to treetop

Optical equipment used: Minox 8X32 binoculars, Nikon Coolpix 995 w/ 3X teleconverter lens

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): About 30 feet at closest

Was bird(s) photographed? yes If so, have you submitted photos? yes

Who took the photographs? Bill Schmoker

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Brushy, Tree-lined ditch bordering mown grass field in a park bordered by residences.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The VATH flushed out of the brushy, frozen ditch into a bush, watched me for about a minute, flew to a treetop, looked around long enough for me to get a quick photo, and then flew a couple hundred yards up a hill to the south. Here it perched for a few seconds in another treetop before it flew into the residential neighborhood, when I lost contact.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

This was a bird with an overall thrush body plan with lots of orange on the wings, belly, neck, and head. The bird was slightly smaller than nearby robins. Its bill was dark, with a dark gray crown and thick dark band through its eye. The neck and breast were orange, and it had a broad orange supercilium. It lacked the dark breastband of a male VATH. Its back was dark gray, and its wings were dark gray with extensive orange bands and bars..

Describe bird's call or song: Not heard.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Too much orange in the wrong places and slightly too small for a robin. No other thrushes I'm familiar with have this much orange.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? This is the second VATH I've seen. (The first was the cooperative bird at Crow Valley, which I observed at length twice.)

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): I consulted The Sibley Guide To Birds while identifying this bird.

This report is from notes made during and after observation.

Date of written report: 12/25/01

Reporting observer: William P. Schmoker

Signature: 

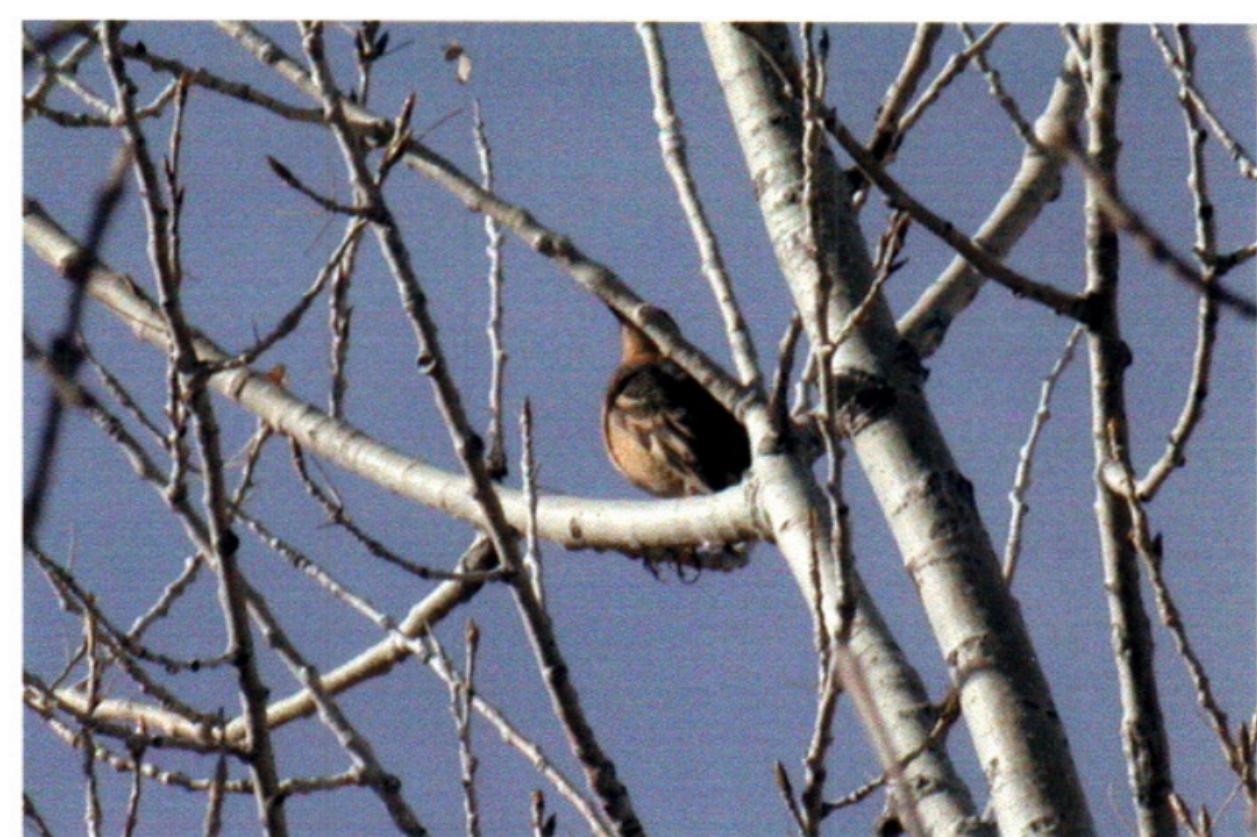
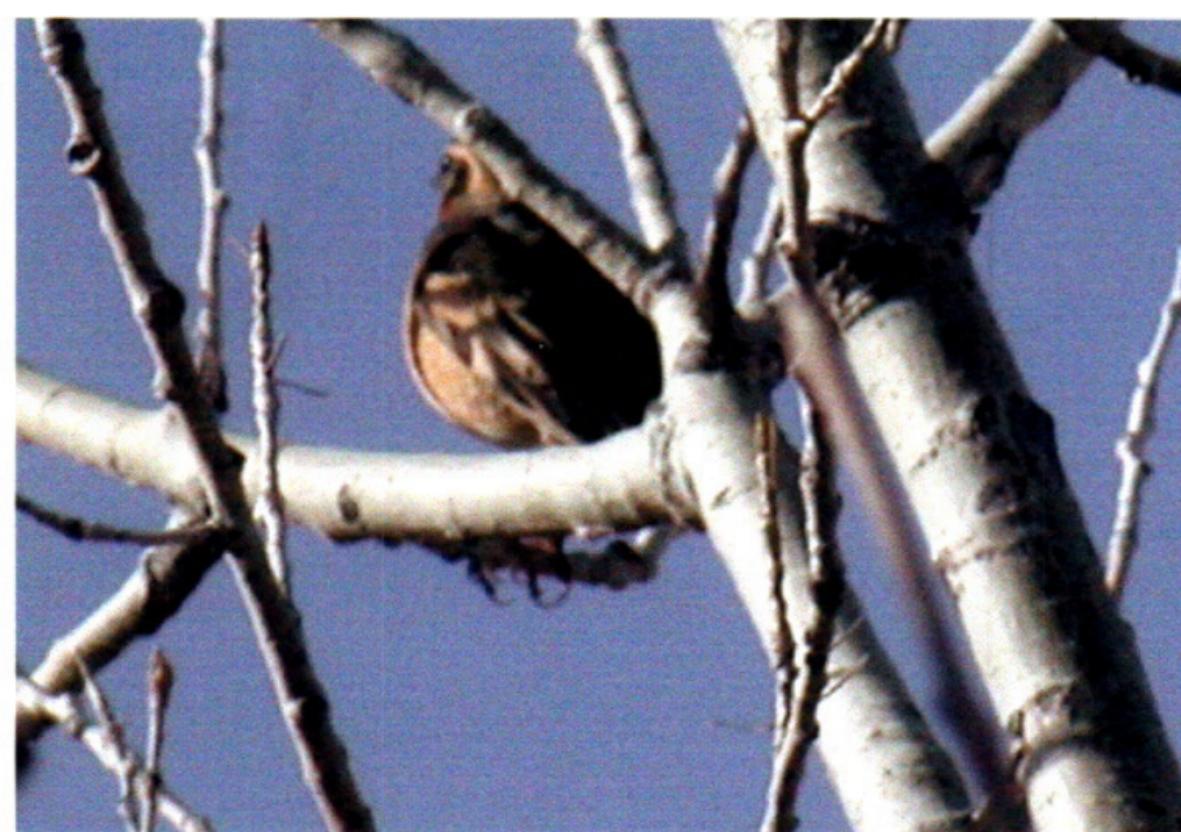
Reporting Observer's Address: 2227 Canyon Blvd. #106

City: Boulder

State: CO

Zip: 80302

Phone: 303/541-9372 email: bschmokr@bvsd.k12.co.us



VATH Boulder, CO 12/25/01 Photos by Bill Schmoker

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

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ACCEPTED

CFO-RC FILE X: **2001-133**

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name): VARIED THRUSH	(Scientific Name) Ixoreus naevius	
Date(s) of occurrence: December 25, 2001		
Number of birds seen: One	Sex: Female	Plumage: Adult
Exact Location: CU South Campus greenbelt off of South Boulder Road.		
County: Boulder	Nearest town: Boulder	Elevation: XX msl
Length of observation: Roughly 5 minutes total.	Time(s) of observation: Morning	
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Tony Leukering		
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Many, I believe. Those I know of include Eric Zorawowicz and Bill Schmoker.		
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Good. Mostly sunny. Initial views were toward the sun but latter views were to the west with sun to my back.		
Optical equipment used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins		
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): Varied. Closest views were roughly 20 feet (though partly obstructed by brush). The best views, when the bird was perched in the open, was as close as possibly 75 feet.		
Was bird(s) photographed? Yes, video	If so, have you submitted photos? Yes, stills from video	

Who took the photographs? **Myself**

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: **Mostly open grassland city open-space with scattered rows of Russian Olive trees along with a small patch of Cottonwood.**

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **Mainly perched in open tree, acting nervous. Observed in flight briefly. Also observed skulking in brush.**

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

Tony Leukering and I had heard of the female Varied Thrush being seen in southwestern Boulder and decided to try for the bird. Arriving at the open space park, we began searching all areas with trees, especially Russian Olives, in attempt to see the bird. After roughly 30-40 minutes with no success, Tony yelled that he had heard and seen the bird. I arrived moments later and watched the bird fly into a dense patch of willow. We, along with another birder, worked closer to the bird. I observed the bird briefly within the thick patch of shrubs but the view was quite obscured. The bird ultimately flew out of the shrubs and landed nearer the top of a tree where much better views and video of the bird were obtained. The bird was a robin-sized thrush with a moderately-long, pointed, straight bill, relatively flat crown, stocky body, and fairly long, squarish-tipped tail. The bill was mainly black but did appear to be a bit lighter on the lower mandible. The crown was a dark gray. There was an evident light orange supercilium that extended from the lores posterior to the nape, broadening slightly behind the eye. The eyes were black and the auriculars were a dark gray, bordered by black. The malar, throat, and upper breast were light orange, aside from a pale gray breastband across the upper breast. The flanks were lighter, being a grayish-orange and were somewhat scalloped. The vent and lower breast seemed whitish. The mantle, scapulars, and uppertail coverts were



a dark gray. The wings were mainly dark but had prominent yellowish-orange wingbars along the wing coverts and primaries. The tail was a very dark grayish-brown and the legs were a yellow-pink. When in flight, the wings patterning of orange along the coverts extended to form long wingstripes, evident from above and below.



Describe bird's call or song: **None heard by myself, though Tony Leukering initially detected the bird by call notes.**

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **The plumage pattern and structure eliminate all other species.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **Have observed other birds in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Alaska, and Texas.**

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **None**

This report is from notes made during or after **XXX** observation or later from memory

Date of written report: **1/3/02**

Reporting observer: **Larry Semo**

Signature:

Reporting Observer's Address: **9054 Dover Street**

City: **Westminster**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80021**

Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
c/o Tony Leukering
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory