

CBRC FILE #: 2002-205

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS – SIGHT RECORD FORM

ACCEPTED

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X

Species: Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

Date(s): 26 October 2002.

Number seen: one.

Sex: female

Plumage: adult.

Locality: Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, Roads HH & 16.

Elevation: unknown.

Nearest town: Fort Lyon.

County: Bent.

Time observed: 10am to 1010am.

Duration of observation: 5 minutes.

Description (including, habitats, and behaviors):

Ken Hollinga and I were birding at the Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, it was a good morning for rarities at the location. We had already seen Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, Nashville Warbler, Harris's and White-throated Sparrows. We went there to look for a female Varied Thrush, first found a couple of days before by Duane Nelson. We had spent a couple of hours in the grove, without finding the Varied Thrush. At one point Ken flushed a bird off the ground, that he thought had the "right look", though we couldn't find that bird at first. I went back to that area, which was on north side of the "Tornado grove", and I finally was able to see a bird, that flushed from the ground and land in an elm tree, and about 6 feet off the ground. The bird turned out to be the Varied Thrush. The orange colored belly and grayish back were seen. I called Ken over and he was also able to see the bird, it stayed in the tree until we left it about 5 minutes after first seeing it.

The shape of the bird was a medium sized songbird, and shaped similar to a robin. The bird had a dark crown, gray back, and dark tail. The wings were gray and had two orange wing bars. There were some other orange markings on the lower part of the folded wings. The face pattern was distinctive. The bird had a dark ear patch on both sides of the head, with an orange color eye line over each eye. Eye color looked dark. The bill was mostly dark in color and not very thick, and fairly short. The chin and throat were orange. The bird had a breast band, that looked grayish, though wasn't very distinctive. The belly was orange. The under tail coverts were white. The legs and feet color and shape weren't noted. The tail looked short and wings didn't go past the tail.

Similar species eliminated:

American Robin is the only orange fronted thrush, though it shows a dark head and white eye ring.

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

None heard.

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

I have seen male Varied Thrushes twice in Colorado, and not a female. I've seen females and male in Washington State in August 2002.

Light conditions:

The bird was in the sun, and the sun was south and east of the bird. The observers were looking north and a little east of the bird.

Optical equipment used:

I used 10x42 binoculars.

Distance and how estimated:

The bird was about 30 feet away in the elm tree.

Other observers who saw the bird with you:

Ken Hollinga from Virginia.

Other observers who saw the bird independently:

Duane Nelson found the bird, a few days before, and Stan Oswald, also saw the bird.

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

Not photographed.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, ect. Consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none b) after observation: none.

This report is from notes made from (check one) ___ noted made during observation X noted made after observation ___ later from memory.

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival

Signature: *Brandon K. Percival*

Address: 835 Harmony Drive, Pueblo West, CO, 81007-2632

Report finished: 2/12/03 8:22 PM