

2003-4

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(this is a two page report-click at the bottom for page 2)

Rec'd 1/7/03

CBRC FILE #: 2004-4³

RESULTS: Accepted

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific names): Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*

Date(s) of Observation: 1-1-03, 1-05-03

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Female Plumage:

Exact location: 6225 Ridgeview Lane, Fort Collins, CO (2 miles east of I-25, ½ mile north of Hwy 14)

County: Larimer Nearest town: Fort Collins

Elevation: Approximately 5,000 ft.

Length of observation: 45 minutes on 1-1-03; 1 hour on 1-5-03 Time(s) of observation: 11:15 am – 11:30 am, 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm on 1-1-03; 8:00 am – 9:00 am on 1-5-03

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Nancy Bell, Charles Bell, Nick Komar

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): none

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observer(s) position):

Very good lighting, sunny on 1-1-03, slightly overcast but still good daylight on 1-5-03

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Species Common and Scientific Name: ~~White Pelican~~ 10x42 Binoculars, Leica 10x42 binoculars,

Optical equipment used: Swarovski 10x42 Binoculars, Leica 10x42 binoculars, Swarovski 60x scope

Date of Observation: May 8, 2002

Location: ~~Wetland area, near Swallows Road, looking east~~ ~~First observed from back door of the house to the bird bath, 20 ft.; then nearby cottonwood tree; then in~~

~~in Russian Olives approx 50 ft. away~~

Weather: clear, calm and warm; sunny, but with sun dropping very low due to time of day
Was (were) bird(s) photographed? Yes If so, are you submitting

Rephotographs? Yes

Nathan Pieplow

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Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred:

Other observers: Andrew Spencer (gwwarbler@yahoo.com)

~~Small rural acreage of wooded areas and small pastures intermixed; surrounded by 40 more homes of similar habitat~~

Observation time, distance, lighting and optics:

~~Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g. flying, feeding, habits:~~

Structure:

~~Drinking from the bird bath, perched in cottonwood tree, perched in Russian~~

~~Olive tree, along with a flock of robins~~
The bird was clearly a pelican. It was a very large bird with short legs, a long neck and an extremely long, straight bill, even longer than its neck, which it often kept tucked down against its breast, in line with its neck.

Though the bird was large, it was practically dwarfed by the American White Pelicans it was with. Even at the great distance, the size difference was striking. Andrew and I estimated that it was two-thirds the size of the white pelicans around it.

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Plumage:

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Due to the lighting, just now getting dark, the plumage is that the bird looked entirely dark brown. From a vantage point its color seemed to be uniform. I would say it was roughly the color of a Brown Jay. :)

DESCRIPTION – This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many

size and shape details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded

Previous observations, experience, and other notes: wings, tail, throat, chest, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include,

I have seen both North American pelican species many times in many states, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings - folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please

fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes.

Robin sized and shaped, orange throat, gray breast band, orange breast, orange eye brow line, dark grayish head and back, 2 orange wing bars, gray smudgy flanks. Decided this bird was a female since the breast band was gray, not black.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration.

Eliminated Robin; Robin does not have an orange throat, does not have a gray breast band, does not have an orange eye brow line, does not have 2 orange wing bars, does not have gray smudgy flanks

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

I have observed Varied Thrushes along the Pacific coast. I also observed the Varied Thrush that was at Crow Valley, Colorado.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Third Edition. Helped to confirm the sex of the bird.

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

Date and time of written report: 1-5-03, 9:59 am

Reporting observer: Nancy Bell

Signature: 

Address: 6225 Ridgeview Lane, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee, Tony Leukering, PO Box 660, Brighton, CO 80601.

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