

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

rec'd 2/3/04

A

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #: 2004-5

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Varied Thrush (Scientific Name) Ixoreus Naevius

Date(s) of occurrence: January 28, February 1 & 2, 2004

Number of birds seen: One Sex: Male Plumage: Adult

Exact location: Feeder on back deck - westerly exposure - 6233 Buffalo Run, Littleton

County: Douglas Nearest town: Littleton Elevation: @6,200

Length of observation: Various has returned several times for up to 30 minutes Time(s) of observation: Various - early morning - 7:30 - 9:30 a.m., up till late afternoon - 4:30 p.m.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Jeanne Hayes (spouse), Sally & Pierre DeVincents

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): ?

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Various, early morning, bright sunshine, dusk

Optical equipment used: Naked Eye & Telephoto Lens

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 10 - 15 feet

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? Yes If so, are you submitting photos? Yes

Who took the photograph(s)? Tom Olkowski

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Scrub Oak forest bordering Pike National Forest

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Behavior pattern similar to Steller's and Scrub Jay's since the bird spent a great deal of time at feeder, id was made on basis of markings.

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. Very distinctive black & rust head/wing/chest markings, dark grey back, black necklace, about 10 inches in length, about same size as Steller's Jay but smaller than a large Jay.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Not noted

SIMILAR SPECIES - This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: I knew immediately I had not seen this bird before and spent a great deal of time observing and researching him - according to Sibley, there are no similar appearing birds.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? None

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): Sibley Guide to Birds; Encyclopedia of North American Birds (Vanner)

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

Date and time of written report 9:00 a.m., February 2, 2004

Reporting observer: Tom Olkowski, Ph.D.

Signature:

Reporting observer's address: 6233 Buffalo Run

City: Littleton

State: CO

Zip: 80125

Send report to:

Colorado Bird Records Committee

Tony Leukering

PO Box 660

Brighton, CO 80601

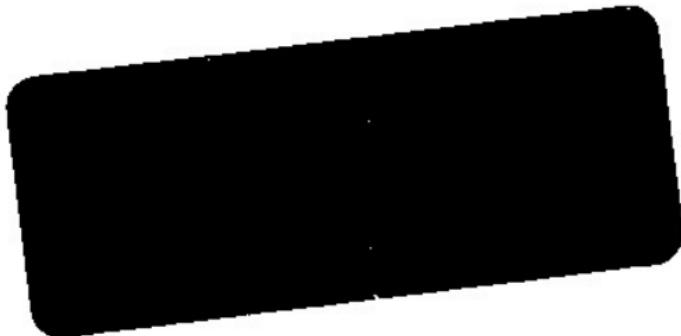


2/1/04





2/1/04





1/28/04



2004-5 1A

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

CBRC FILE #:

RESULTS:

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

Date(s) of occurrence: 7 Feb 2004

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

Exact location: Private Residence North of Roxborough State Park (6233 Buffalo Run, Littleton, CO 80125)

County: Douglas Nearest town: Littleton Elevation: ~6100 ft.

Length of observation: Several short observations over about 1/2 hour Time(s) of observation: approx. 8:00-8:35 am

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Doug Faulkner, Elena Faulkner, Larry Semo, Tom Olkowski (homeowner)

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): None Known

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position): Even light in shade of house.

Optical equipment used: Minox 8.5 X 42, Nikon D100 + 80-400 VR

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): about 3 meters at closest (we were in kitchen looking out onto deck)

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? Yes If so, are you submitting photos? Yes

Who took the photograph(s)? Bill Schmoker

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: The bird was visiting a backyard feeder station in the foothills west of the Denver metro area. The backyard had a small deck with mixed birdseed, with thick Gambel Oak leading up the hillside behind the house. There was only a small (3-5 meter?) gap from the deck to the scrub oak. The ground was mostly covered with several inches of snow.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: The bird would perch a while in the scrub oak before dropping down to the deck to feed. Interestingly, it would displace the much larger Steller's and Western Scrub Jays also feeding. At one point the bird was observed eating snow from the top of a Gambel Oak branch. Also at one time the bird was seen picking around leaf litter in a small area clear of snow under an oak bush. When standing and feeding the bird would tuck one leg up into its feathers, presumably to limit heat loss.

DESCRIPTION – Vividly patterned black and orange thrush. Roughly the size of American Robin. Bill mostly black, paler at base of mandible, typical thrush proportions. Head boldly marked orange and black, with dark crown, orange supercilium, wide dark band through eye into auriculars, and orange throat. Iris black. Solid dark black breast band. Orange breast and belly giving way to scaly orange/gray scaly flanks. Undertail coverts mostly white with orange and dark gray flecking. Mantle and upper tail surfaces bluish gray. Wings with broad swaths of orange and black. Legs kind of pinkish-orange.

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

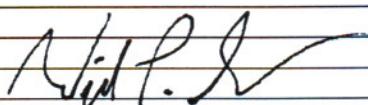
SIMILAR SPECIES – American Robin can have an orange breast, but lacks bold patterning in wings and head, has dark legs, etc.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? This is the first male VATH I've seen. I've seen three female VATHs in Colorado.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):
Sibley Guide to Birds.

This report was made from: Photos and notes taken after observation

Date and time of written report: 19 Feb 04

Reporting observer: William P Schmoker Signature: 

Reporting observer's address: 3381 Larkspur Dr. Longmont, CO 80503 email: bill@schmoker.org





