

Wood Thrush
18 Dec 1985
Eden Valley Refuge, Clinton Co., IA
*Sharon Kaufman
IBL 56:44

Record Number: 85-26
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Sharon Kaufman

REFERENCE

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 56:24

Records Committee: IBL 56:44

VOTE: 1-III, 3-IV, 2-V, 1-VI

IV, Just not enough detail to identify bird--prob. is correct although Hermit Thrush more likely.

V, As far as it goes, the description sounds OK. I would like to have a more detailed description made on the spot for such a rare bird. I do not know how experienced the observers are. This type of sighting should be reported to birdline and extensive search for the bird undertaken with photographs if possible. I found 7 winter records for Gulf Coast, 5 from East Coast (VA, MD, PA), and 1 from Ohio.

V, Documentation does not eliminate Hermit Thrush. Need better description of the bird to do this and fully describe a Wood Thrush. With late October being a recorded late date this observation would be exceptionally late. We have to be careful; this documentation is not complete enough.

VI, Details need to be more complete to convince me this wasn't a Hermit Thrush--especially in mid-Dec.

IV, Too sketchy for such an unlikely sighting. Not critical enough in describing extent of spotting, coloration and specific elimination of other thrushes, particularly Hermit.

IV, Favorable: Description sketchy but OK. Says field notes taken immediately. Fruit crop large--a thrush might survive into winter. Unfavorable: "Similar species" gives no evidence the observer knows how to differentiate between thrushes. This winter things freeze up early--a sick Wood Thrush would be likely to die. (A healthy one would not be likely to be here.) I don't know observer, but then once I didn't know anybody.

What species? Wood Thrush How many? 1Location? West Valley at Eden Valley Refuge

(LOST NATION CBC)

Type of habitat? Shrubs at hardwood timber edgeWhen? date(s)? December 18, 1985 time: 11:00a.m.Who? your name and address: Sharon Kaufman, R.R.#1, Box 124, Calamus, IA 52729others with you: Jack Wohlstadter, 816 E. 2nd St., Rock Falls, IL 61071others before or after you: None

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Very large breast spots on a bird a little smaller than a robin, with a rufous cap, fairly conspicuous eye ring, robin-like, single-note call.

1

Similar species and how eliminated:

Hermit and Grey Cheeked Thrush. This bird had more conspicuous eye, larger and more numerous breast spots.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Perfect sunny day, our backs to sun, bird came right out into the open, approximately fifteen feet.

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

Numerous previous sightings
References and persons consulted before writing description:

Field Guide to Birds East of Rockies - Roger Tory Peterson
How long before field notes made? Immediately This form completed? 6 hrs. later.