

Townsend's Solitaire 1
17 May 1992
Polk City Cemetery, Polk Co., IA
*Hertzel
IBL 62:79, 63:70

Record Number: 92-26
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Paul Hertzel, 319 20th St., Ames, IA 50010 (6/30/93)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 62:79
Records Committee: IBL 63:70

VOTE: 6 A-D, 1-NA

A-D, Despite brevity of the documentation, this appears to be a correct record. Not only do the field marks support the ID, but the observer has some experience with the species, and the date falls within the expected migration interval.

NA, I must vote NA on what was not seen in this case. It seems to me that with the look described it would have been hard to miss the Junco like white outer tail feathers. I suggest this bird could have been a Gray-cheeked Thrush.

A-D, All gray bird with thin white eyering and orange colored wing-bars or markings diagnostic of this species.

A-D, Good, distinctive details noted for an adult Townsend's Solitaire.

REVOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, as for comments white outer feathers were noted document is sufficient for me.

A-D, The observer does mention "white on outer tail feathers" in his documentation. In addition, Gray-cheeked Thrush would be unlikely to show "orange-buff wing bars...more noticeable when flies" or an upright posture.

A-D, The only one who missed the white outer tail feathers was the N.A. voter. Quoting from the documentation, "...white on outer tail feathers."

A-D, The white outer tail feathers were noted, and I therefore change my vote to AD.

A-D, Documentation does mention white outer tail feathers.

A-D, Good, distinctive details were provided for an adult Townsend's Solitaire. The white on the outer tail feathers was noted. I don't know how the one reviewer could think this was a Gray-cheeked Thrush with the details provided for this bird -- nothing indicates a Gray-cheeked Thrush.

92-26

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species How many? Townsend's Solitaire; one individual.

Location? Polk City Cemetery.

Type of habitat? Mowed grass with scattered pines and bushes.

When? date(s): 5-17-92 Time: . 12:00 noon.

Who? your name and address Paul Hertzell (515) 232-8799
319 20th st.

Others with you none Ames, IA., 50010

Others before and after you none I know of.

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also describe voice and behavior. Field notes: "Catbird-sized, maybe a little heavier. Uniformly gray - a bit darker on wings and tail. Thin white eye-ring very distinctive; white on outer tail feathers. Orange-buff wing bars evident when perched - more noticeable when flies."

The bird made no sound. It's behavior was Thrush-like. It sat still on a grave marker or low perch and then flew to the ground momentarily. Then it returned to another marker or perch and repeated. It reminded me of a Crested Flycatcher or Bluebird in this behavior.

Similar species and how eliminated: Briefly considered Mockingbird, but posture (upright) and behavior was wrong. On closer look had orange, not white, wing bars. Lacked sleek

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? head and longer bill of Mockingbird eye-ring was very obvious.
If yes, explain: N/A.

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: 12:00 noon; partly sunny. Had ~~an~~ 8x40 Minolta binoculars, but viewed from as close as 10 feet, for

Previous experience with this species and similar ones: about 15 minutes. About 1 per year (I'm 40 years old) The bird was

References and persons consulted before writing description: calm and wrote description on site... I knew in general unhurried. what features to confirm.

How long before field notes made? while observing bird.
this form completed? 2 weeks

Mail original form to field editor for this season.