

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Townsend's Solitaire How many? 1

Location? Residence of Cletus & Jan Ortmeier, SW shore of West Okoboji Lake, Dickinson Co.

Type of habitat? yard, with planting of Rus. Olive, Buckthorn, junipers, weeping willow, etc.

When? date(s)? Feb. 1 - April 20 time: _____ to (see attached sheet)

Who? your name and address: LaVonne Foote, RR Box 7298, Spirit Lake, IA 51360

others with you: Jan Ortmeier, Emmerson Bay, Milford, Iowa 51351

others before or after you: Douglas Harr, Box 65 Larchwood, Iowa 51241 (et al--see attached page)

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.

Bird all gray, appears lighter on throat, looked like powder gray. Bird was smaller than a robin, has complete white eye ring, wing bars and three "V's" on upper back of wing. Bill shorter than robin. Long tail, with white on each side of outer feathers. Bird sings--has loud voice. Song fast with short, set notes. Seen eating berries from a juniper tree. In flight, some buff color can be seen on wings and under wings. Feet and bill black..

photos are included.

1987 JMK

Similar species and how eliminated:

Mockingbird--no eye ring & too much white on wings.

Shrike--no eye ring; has mask, differently shaped bill.

Catbird--no white on outer tail feathers; rust under tail, no eye ring.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? No.

If yes, explain:

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

Seen many different days, in all light conditions and from all viewing angles, often at less than 12 feet distance. Bushnell 7x35 binocs and Sears 10x50 WA binocs.

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

None with this species; have seen all those listed above on numerous occasions.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

(all field guides used--after description was prepared)

How long before field notes made? immediately on first date This form completed? 3 weeks.
ate of first sighting

bird observed, at various times
by the following people -

- 1- Jan Ortmeier - Milford
- 2- LaVonne Post - Spirit Lake
- 3- Maris Hunder - Milford
- 4- Blaine & Eric Hoien - Spirit Lake
- 5- Olet Ortmeier - Milford
- 6- Lois & Larry White - Laurens
7. Doug Harr - Larchwood

list of all times and dates seen through preparation of Doc. form. More sightings seen through late April.

Feb 7 - 10:30 to 1:45

Feb 8 - 11:30 - 12:45

Feb 9 1:20 - 2:40

Feb 10 12:30 - 1:45

Feb 11 1:10 - 2:45

Feb 12 3:30 - 4:15

Feb 13 1:00 - 2:30

14 2:10.

15-16 - Jan gone

17 3:15 - 4:20

18 3:10 -

19 4:00 -

20 11:15 - 1:30 3:30 -

21 Didn't show

22 - 12:40 - 1:20

23 - Didn't show

24 - 1:27 - 2:10 3:03 - 3:15 3:25 - 5:07

25 Didn't show

26 1:04 - fly south 1:57

27 7:48 AM - stayed 2:59 (Jan + sleet bird eating heavy)

28 Didn't show

March 1 - 3:58 around until 5:06 (having encounter with a Robin)

2 - 10:17 - stayed till 3:10

3 Didn't show

4 - 8:23 - all day till 4:35 + flies south always leaves

5 - 3:47

6 - 2:30 - 4:20

7 - 12:10

8 - 10:04 - stayed until 2:30 (9th 12:12 - 3:30)

March 11 - 9:30
#2:45-2:50