

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Townsend's Solitaire How many? 1

Location? s.e Webster Co., along Des Moines r.

Type of habitat? overgrown pasture with cedars, woody draws meeting cropland

When? date(s): 5 May 1986 time: 4:00 to 4:07

Who? your name and address: Erik Munson 3223 West St Ames IA 50010

others with you: —

others before or (after) you: Steve Dinsmore

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

^{midway} basic, uniform gray all over. Same back color as breast color: a gray ^{midway} between the shade of log shrike and a catbird. Dab, no sharp contrast anywhere except a bold eye ring; a dull arrangement of buff on the wing was barely visible. The patch was larger and duller than that in a mockingbird. Bill dark, mimic- or thrush-like, decurved slightly. Fed like a bluebird, perching upright, dropping into grass for a moment, then back up to perch in dead tree (7 ft.). As it swooped, it showed dull flashes of buff in the wing. The bird did not flick its tail. No white tail markings were noted. robin sized.

Similar species and how eliminated:

mockingbird by underlined portions above, pasture

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
good-excellent est. 50 ft. 7x35 binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones: none

References and persons consulted before writing description: 3 guides (Nat. Geog., Peterson, Audubon)

How long before field notes made? 15 hrs. this form completed? 20 days

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