

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Varied Thrush How Many? one male

Location: 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City

Type of habitat?: suburban house on ravine with feeders

When? Date(s): March `1,6,9,20,23,24,25,26,27, April 2,3,4,5,11,13, 1994 time: varied

Who? your name and address:

James Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, IA 52240-9148

Others with you: often Sharon Scheib

Others before or after you: 27 known individuals during winter months

*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.*

A robin-sized bird with orange throat and breast with black ring necklace across upper chest. Black eye with broad black eye stripe. Orange stripe above and behind eye flaring up as it went back. Crown appeared black or dark gray. Back and rump were gray. Tail is black with small white dot at tips from back. Under side of tail had white moon-shaped markings toward posterior. Undertail coverts are white. Sides are gray merging into orange belly. Wings are gray with orange markings. Bill is black and appeared slightly thinner than a Robin's; more tubular with a point.

*Similar species and how eliminated:* I don't know of an American bird that could be easily confused with an adult male Varied Thrush.

*Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?*

All above named birders agreed on the identification.

*If yes, explain:*

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

Viewed both in trees and on ground feeding; distances as close as 12 feet.

*Previous experience with species and similar ones:*

I had seen in Iowa in 1989 and many in California since as has Sharon.

*References and persons consulted before writing description:*

National Geographic was referenced in order not to miss observing any important traits.

*How long before field notes made?* Notes made at the time of first observation.

*How long before this form completed?* First for done fifteen minutes after first observation.

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