

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

Accepted by  
Field Reports Editor

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1. Species Varied Thrush 2. Number 1  
3. Location Waterloo, Iowa  
4. Date: Dec 7, 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: 3:00 P.M. to 3:05 P.M.

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

SIZE - About same as robin

SHAPE - Same as robin

COLOR - Dark back - Orangish breast with dark band - orangish stripe over eye - dark head

Due to the very bleak day this is really all I personally saw

7. Description of voice, if heard: —
8. Description of behavior: Bird was feeding on a lawn with some starlings - Acted very robin-like as it hopped over the yard.
9. Habitat - general: A very affluent residential area  
specific: Many trees including a lot of evergreens - many big feeders & heated bird baths - The area offers everything a bird could want - safety - food - water - shelter + a degree of privacy
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Somewhat like robin but robin lacks the breast band and eye stripe
11. Distance (how measured)? about 25' (stepped off)
12. Optical equipment: B&L 7x35 roof prisms
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
dreary - drizzly day - light was poor
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
I have seen the varied thrush twice before in Cedar falls
15. Other observers: Russ Hays, Evelyn Eilers, Francis Moore, Tom & Tom Stone Jr. (all but Eilers saw bird earlier in day than I and in much better light + closer)
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Ruth Buck, whose yard the bird came to, knew the bird well as they moved to Waterloo from the west.
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
Birds of North America - Robbins - IT confirmed my identification
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? some day

Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave

Date: Dec. 7, 1980 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa