

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Townsend's Solitaire How many? 1Location? Lake Anita State Park - Cass CountyType of habitat? Oak- cedar LakeshoreWhen? date(s): MARCH 18, 1995 time: 11:45 to 11:50Who? your name and address: Ed Thelen RR 8725 SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360others with you: MARTY THELEN - CARROLL, IOWAothers before or after you: JOE CLARK - CARROLL TOM KENT?

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.

Uniform non-descript grey bird resembling a robin but definitely slimmer. Lighter grey under the chin area. White spectacles were noted immediately. Seemed to have a short bill.

When first spotted it was perched on top of large oak tree. After about 3 minutes it flew in front of us across the road and landed on tip of large cedar tree.

As it flew I thought I saw a white edge on tail.

Similar species and how eliminated:

♀ mountain bluebird has shorter tail

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Fair - Cloudy - bright - we were looking above and to the NORTH. Used 8x40 then 30 power scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

NONE

References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson Field GuideHow long before field notes made? 1 day this form completed? 1 wkMAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52240