

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species VARIED THRUSH 2. Number: ONE
3. Location SHENANDOAH, IOWA
4. Date: FEB. 23, 1979 5. Time Bird seen: 7:40 AM to 8:00 AM
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):
A beautiful mature male, robin size with black breast band, orange eye stripe, breast, and wing markings.
7. Description of voice, if heard: *He wasn't singing.*
8. Description of behavior: *Feeding on a patio with junco.*
9. Habitat - general: *many trees and shrubs in the area - not far*
specific: *from the cemetery where there are many pine trees.*
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Similar to a robin in size and coloration.
11. Distance (how measured)? *10 to 15 feet - estimate* 12. Optical equipment: *So near to the bird, I didn't need binocs.*
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Bird was facing the sun, so the light was very good.
14. Previous experience with this species and, similarly appearing species: *Saw one at Oed Mission Dam, San Diego, Cal. 7-20-74. On 10-04-77 saw several at close range in Yosemite Park, Cal.*
15. Other Observers: *Mrs. Don (Vera) Jennings on 2-24-79, Betty Walters + Mary Beth Vaughn + Barbara Cunningham saw it 2-25-79, Marie Spear - 2-26*
16. Did the others agree with your identification? *Yes*
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: *Vera Jennings, Betty Walters, Mary B. Vaughn, Barbara Cunningham, Marie Spear (2-26-79)*
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
*Birds of No. Am. - Robbins
Field Guide of Western Birds - Peterson
Birds of California - Small
Birds of Northwest - Gabrielson + Jewett
Life Histories of Thrushes etc - Bent*
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? *One hour.*
I added other observers 2-26
Ruth A. Phipps
- Signature _____ Address: 310 University
- Date: Feb. 23, 1979 City, State: Shenandoah, Iowa 51601