

DOCUMENTATION

SPECIES: **Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*)

HOW MANY: One (1)

LOCATION: Pottawattamie County - .85 mile East on Applewood Drive from junction with Highway 235

DATE: December 16, 1995

TIME & LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: Observed from approximately 12:50 - 1:20 p.m. C.S.T.

FIRST OBSERVATION MADE BY: Originally located by Loren and Babs Padelford on December 15, 1995
Located on December 16, 1995 by Reid Allen

DOCUMENTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Reid and Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

OTHERS WHO SAW BIRD: Loren and Babs Padelford on December 15, 1995

DESCRIPTION OF BIRD: This drab, greyish thrush popped up in a tree by the side of the road and immediately visible was the prominent white or light eye ring. The second noticeable characteristic was the white outer tail feathers and white outer corners and bottom of the tail feathers. Watching the bird fly away from you, the tail itself was long and the central part of the tail looked dark; somewhat like a Western Kingbird's tail pattern. The light, buffy wing patches looked like a wing bar and in flight the underwing pattern was very striking. It did not have "windows" like a Northern Mockingbird, but was a "striped" pattern. The bird was "perking" or "chirping" quite a bit. It also was "fly-catching" quite a few insects and would go from a tree to the telephone or electric wire and perch awhile; then fly off to catch a bug and come back to the wire or fly a little further to another location where there were insects available. The size of the bird was smaller than an American Robin and thinner, but it was larger than an Eastern Bluebird and the tail was certainly longer.

SIMILAR SPECIES & HOW ELIMINATED: The Northern Mockingbird would be eliminated because of the prominent eyering and larger size.

VIEWING CONDITIONS: Excellent. There was a thin overcast, with hardly any wind and temperatures in the low 40's.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIES: Have seen this species in Iowa on two other occasions.

EQUIPMENT: Kowa TSN-614 spotting scope; Bushnell 8x36 Custom Binoculars.

REFERENCES CONSULTED: FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, National Geographic Society, Second Edition, 1987.

HOW LONG BEFORE FIELD NOTES MADE: After observing bird.

HOW LONG BEFORE THIS FORM COMPLETED: December 18, 1995.

PHOTOGRAPH: None.