

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Swainson's Thrush How many? 1

Location? 1315 41st St. Des Moines, IA

Type of Habitat? Urban Residential

When? date(s): Nov. 14, 1996 time: 8:15AM to 8:18AM

Who? your name and address: Robert Cecil 1315 41st St. Des Moines, IA

Others with you: NO

Others before or after you: No

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I was driving out my driveway when I observed a thrush on the bend of my downspout by the corner of my house. The bird then flew a few feet to the base of some hedges. I had my binoculars with me and observed the bird, which I assumed was a Hermit Thrush. I looked at the bird's tail and rump, expecting to see rusty coloration. Instead of rusty coloration, however, the bird's entire upper parts, including tail, rump, back and head were uniformly gray-brown. I then observed the clearly defined buffy eyering characteristic of a Swainson's Thrush. This eyering extended towards the upper mandible to give a "spectacled" appearance.

The bird's throat and upper breast was orangy-brown and heavily speckled with dark brown, slightly elongated spots. These spots trailed off at mid-breast, although very faint (speckling) extended along the flanks of the bird. The underparts were white. The bird remained low and close to cover during my observation. No sounds were noted.

"splochy" is probably a better word.

Similar species; how eliminated: The uniformity of color on the bird's upper parts in conjunction with the conspicuous eyering eliminates all other thrushes.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NA
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. Cloudy but clearing, with excellent lighting. My car served as a blind, enabling me to approach within 20' of the bird. I ^{used} 10x40 Zeiss Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: On May 12 of this Spring, I observed a Hermit and a Swainson's Thrush together in Des Moines, and was able to study their differences. I documented the Hermit, and then forgot to send it in!

References and persons consulted before writing description:

I looked at the National Geographic Guide after making field notes.

How long before field notes made? Immediately this form completed? 28 hours

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).