

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

accepted by CBE Editor

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1. Species Varied Thrush
 2. Number One
 3. Location 240 Berkshire Road, Waterloo IA
 4. Date: December 27, 1980
 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:24 a.m. to 8:28 a.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): Bird seen was a male with a black breast band dividing an orange breast and throat. Also seen was the orange eyestripe and orange wingbars. This bird didn't appear as plump as an American Robin, thus it seemed a little slimmer. Back and tail was a slategray color such as that of American Robin. Beak was a dark gray color with feet a yellow-green color. Breast turning to white as it approaches lower belly.
 7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard
 8. Description of behavior: Actions were like that of American Robin but somewhat more secretive and flighty. Hard to approach.
 9. Habitat - general: residential area with a lot of old coniferous trees planted in and around the area
specific: back yard of above residence - windbreak of arborvitae with several other species of pine in yard and in neighbor's yard.
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: American Robin has all red breast and lacks the orange eye-stripe.
 11. Distance (how measured)? 100-150 feet (eye)
 12. Optical equipment: B+L 7x35mm Roof Prism binoculars
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): mostly cloudy sun behind me as I faced to the west with bird in front of me and a little to my right. Sky was bright but mostly cloudy. Good light directly on bird.
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Have see Varied Thrush two other times in Cedar Falls in winter of 1978-79 and Fall of 1979. This bird looked similar to those other birds. I am familiar with American Robin, also.
 15. Other observers: Russell Hays, Ruth Buck
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Russell Hays, Ruth Buck; Ruth Buck was the person who brought the Thrush to our attention.
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Robbins, Bruun, Zimm + Singer Birds of North of America; Peterson A Field Guide to the Birds, East; They reinforced my identification of the bird and made it more certain.
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 24 hours.
- Signature: James L. Moore Address: 264 Western Ave.
- Date: December 28, 1980 City, State: Waterloo, IA 50701