

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Townsend's Solitaire

How Many?1

Location?in a public hunting area north of Ledges State Park, Boone Co.

Habitat?feeding in a large area of scattered cedars

Date?29 Oct 1986

Time?4:40-4:50 P.M.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:The bird was about robin-sized, but slimmer. The bird was mostly medium-gray in color with slightly darker wings and tail. The bill was short and black. The bird also had an obvious light eyering. In flight, the bird showed a small buffy patch at the base of the secondaries and white outer tail feathers. The bird was actively feeding on cedar berries during the observation.

Similar species and how eliminated:Northern Mockingbird eliminated by the short bill, eyering, buffy wing patch, and overall darker color.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were good with the sun behind me. Estimated viewing distance was 30-40 feet most of the time. I used Nikon 8 x 23 binoculars.

Previous experience with species:I have seen one other Townsend's Solitaire in Iowa plus several in some western states.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?1 week