

ADDITIONAL UNUSUAL SIGHTING (Spirit Lake, Ia, CBC)

Varied Thrush (1)--

Two of the feeder observers observed what they believed to be a Varied Thrush on the SE shore of Big Spirit Lake, feeding on the ground with a flock of House Sparrows. They phoned a retired conservation officer who arrived soon after to also agree on the I.D. Finally, one of the most reliable birders we have in the Lakes Region, LaVonne Foote, was also called to observe and verify the bird. Mrs. Foote did, and stated to me in a letter that there is absolutely no doubt of this bird's I.D. as a Varied Thrush. None of the people observing the bird had documentation forms or realized that such documentation would be necessary for such an easy to I.D. species. Also, I may be partly at fault in that I had documentation forms available for CBC field parties, but as none of the feeder observers met with prior to going afield they did not receive any forms. I can readily vouch for Mrs. Foote's birding abilities--she regularly reports unusual sightings to me to send on to IOU Field Notes when I submit my quarterly reports (I'm not sure why she is not an IOU member herself, as she is perhaps the best birder I know at Spirit Lake.)

Doug Harr  
CBC Compiler

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