

Species: Louisiana Waterthrush Semisotus motacilla
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 6/1 and 6/2 1975 Time Bird Seen: 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM
Locality: Cottonwood Canyon 61 - 7100 7.15 Km
Nearest Town: Kim County: See above
as near as

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

N/AOptical Equipment: 10 x 40 binocularsIf photographed, type of equipment used: cameraLight Conditions: Cloudy, overcastDistance from bird (how measured): 10 ft from tree, all up 15 ft estimatedNumber of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ♂ singing Plumage: adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

On 6/1, I saw a bird which resembled a waterthrush or an ovenbird, however as it walked - I quickly looked at its head because I had seen an ovenbird - that same night since it didn't have a white cap and it flew I decided it may have been a northern waterthrush.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Copy from field notes

"The warbler I heard 6/1 began to sing at about 7 AM after I had been in the area about 15 minutes. Same song as I had heard 6/1. For a bird singing about 20 ft up 15 ft facing me - a waterthrush. This bird had a strong white eye line - streaked breast. I took special note of white throat which had no apparent streaks. Was impressed by the unlike warbler bill: strong and long."

Bird was facing me so I could not see tail or wings. and after it would sit did it sing again so didn't find it again - on 6/2 - did think I might have found it again - but none.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: Often saw the bird on the ground or down in the trees. I don't know the song of the Northern Waterthrush - the song was not nearly as explosive. I really thought it was another warbler - at first I thought it was a Northern Waterthrush, but did not have a clear note from the descending phase.

2. Northern Waterthrush a. Had white mustached throat, strong white line over eye
b. Song wasn't explosive, more measured
c. New specimen of ~~that~~ the strong - long bill could belong to a warbler.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species;

I am familiar with Goshawks in Wisconsin - and
have seen them more northern with hawks. I have seen
several with hawks in the past but can't distinctly
remember when.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Petition - tried to side to western Bank

Potter - Back of No. 20. - did refer to the letter white,
 , agreeing the bird.

This report was written from notes made during ~~first and second~~ after observation; from memory

PRINT NAME: Lois E. Welsch SIGNATURE: Wang to Lan DATE: 7/31/11
Street Address: 780 Elmwood Town and State: Amherst, MA

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - - - - *Seiurus motacilla*

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed a written report supporting the occurrence of a Louisiana Waterthrush in Cottonwood Canyon, Baca County on June 1 and 2, 1975. After evaluating the documentation submitted by the observer, Lois E. Webster of Aurora, the Committee ruled to accept this report and add the Louisiana Waterthrush to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado.

The observer reported as follows: "On June 1, I saw a bird which resembled a Waterthrush or an Ovenbird bobbing as it walked. I quickly looked at its head because I had seen an Ovenbird in that same spot earlier. Since it didn't have a rusty cap and it flew, I decided it must have been a Northern Waterthrush."

From her field notes: "The warbler I heard on June 1 began to sing about 7 A.M. after I had been in the area about fifteen minutes. Same song as I heard on June 1. Found bird singing about twenty feet up facing me - a Waterthrush. This bird had a strong white eye line - streaked breast. I took special note of the white throat which had no apparent streaking. Was impressed by the unlike warbler bill - strong and long."

The observer described the bird's song as follows: ". . . I heard a bird downstream - in the trees. It wasn't the song of the Northern Waterthrush. This song wasn't nearly as explosive. I really thought it was another warbler. It kept moving and then singing. The song resembled the song of the Chestnut-sided Warbler, but did not have as sharp a note preceding the descending phrase. The next day I saw the Waterthrush singing the same song."

Chairman's comments: Field separation of the two species of Waterthrushes is extremely tricky, particularly in the west. Most of the popular Field Guides tend to overstress certain characteristics (throat spotting), incorrectly describe others (eyeline) and fail to mention such diagnostic features as the flank color. However, the vocalizations of the two species are quite distinctive and herein lay the basis for the Committee's acceptance despite the lack of concrete details describing the bird's appearance. Colorado field observers are urged to acquaint themselves with Dr. Laurence C. Binford's treatise on "Identification of Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes" as published in California Birds (now Western Birds), Volume 2, Number 1, pages 1-10.



CHAIRMAN
CFO Official Records Committee

January 14, 1976