

CFO-ORC FILE # 52-96 - 84Accepted 7-0

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒Rec'd 9-19-96

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Louisiana Waterthrush | Seiurus motacilla
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 17 May 1996Number of birds seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Unknown (adult?)Locality: Woodland north of Prewitt Reservoir dam Elevation: _____Nearest town: Merino County: Washington (very near Logan line)Time(s) observed: 3:30 P → 6:30 P (off & on)Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): Longest session was ~ 30 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

None that I know of

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

most of time bird was in moderate shade along edge of thickly vegetated & branched ditch, one two occasions seen out in a patch of sunlit shrublineOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x50 Nikon binocularsDistance, and how measured: most of the time 15 meters (estimated)

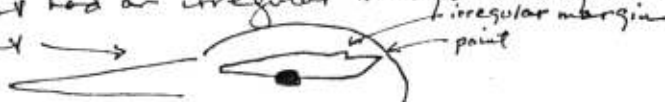
If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): Bird was calmly picking its way along the edge of a slow-moving ditch, foraging on mounds and unidentified aquatic invertebrates. It exhibited a constant exaggerated tail or rear-end bobbing. Infrequently, it glanced upward (couldn't tell if this was an anti-predator precaution or rather a type of prey-searching. Twice saw the bird make little short flights otherwise it just walked carefully in and under branches, out into mossy water and on the muddy ditch edge.

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

Overall impression was of a bill-billed waterthrush with a bright white eyebrow, white underneath toward the chest, yellowish-salmon toward the rear underneath. Upon close examination the eyebrow line was wider toward the back of the head. The lore area of the stripe was not noticeably yellower than the rest of the stripe from the distance I viewed it. The throat was bright white and mostly devoid of stripes. The flanks were heavily marked with diffuse stripes. About mid-belly (lower chest?), the under color changed from white to a noticeably yellow-pink color. When viewed from the side, this color extended along the flanks to the under-tail coverts. When the bird was seen from the rear with the tail tips the yellow-pink color formed an arch, with the center of the arch (lower belly) being where the legs were pink-orange in the shade, brighter pink in full sunlight. The crown, side of the face, nape, back, wings and tail were a medium brown. The eye was black. I did not note the bill color. The bird had no wing bars. The eyebrow stripe toward the rear where it was widest had an irregular margin along its top edge and came to an upward-angled point →



my notes state that the flank stripes extended back to about the tip of the secondary wing feathers

Description (continued): It may have been mostly because of the bigger-looking bill, but the whole bird seemed a little larger than typical Northern waterthroats. The bird seemed a little less wary than a typical Northern. I was able to sit quietly on the opposite bank and watch the bird forage at length. I ended the viewing on two occasions because I had seen all I could see about the bird except exactly what prey it was getting from the water.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): A call note was heard on about 6 or 7 occasions (thus, very infrequently for the amount of time I spent with the bird). This note was a loud "tink!" or "tsink."

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: Slow-moving, almost stagnant ditch, shallow, full of algae. Lots of fallen trees (boxelder and cottonwood & Russian olives), lumps & turfs in the water, muddy bank. Riparian, rich in invertebrates.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? Bigger bill, white eyebrow with scalloped edge & widest behind the eye, pink legs, white chest contrasting with yellow-pink flanks & loud call note. I saw a Northern waterthroat 20 yards from this bird and studied both. The northern was a noveboracensis race. Northern call note noticeably softer. Northern bill smaller. Eyeline yellow and narrow behind the eye.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen several Louisiana waterthroats in the East. I heard some singing and calling (not seen) on May 2, 1996 in Southern Ohio. I have seen several dozen Northern of both eastern & western races in Colorado since 1974.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: Warblers of the Americas by Corson et al.
Nat'l. Geo. Guide

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation from memory
Date and time report was written: 4:30 P May 16, 1996 (notes) This report May 17, 1996 (10

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All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:
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