

Species: Varied Thrush

(Vernacular Name)

Ixoreus naevius

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): November 21, 1976Time Bird Seen: 8:05 a.m. to 8:08 a.m.Locality: Ridges Basin Road - 2 miles west of the Bodo Wildlife AreaNearest Town: DurangoCounty: La Plata

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

Preston Somers

ADDRESS

864 East 6th Ave Durango

TELEPHONE

303-247-4085

Optical Equipment: 7x35 Bushnell Custom BinocularsIf photographed, type of equipment used: -----Light Conditions: Excellent sun from back and sideDistance from bird (how measured): 10 feet to 200 feet estimatedNumber of Birds Seen: one Sex: male Plumage: adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

We were conducting a bird inventory count. I heard a call note that was different than anything else I had ever heard in this area. I called to Preston to listen. Just as he reached the point where I was standing, we saw this bird fly from a juniper tree and come toward us slightly then land on a fence post. After sitting there for a while he again flew, this time it was directly toward us. He landed on another fence post about 10 feet from us. While on this post he went through an

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:

act designed for birders. First he gave us a side view, turned for a front on, turned again for the other side, and then flew off over the hill and was not seen again.\*\*\*\*\* The instant the bird flew from the juniper(the first time) I saw the orange breast and throat with the meadowlark like black bar across the upper breast. While on the first post we noticed the slate gray robin like back and head. We could not see any color difference between the head and back. When the bird flew to the second post we noted the orange stripe above the partially ringed eye. The wings had two distinct orange bars and several other orange spots (shafts of feathers) scattered over the outer wing surface. The legs were light as was the bill (color not noted). The overall size and shape was that of a robin. The underparts were not noted.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

The note we heard can not be described by me. It wasn't the song I have heard, but it did have some of its qualities.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

The bird was seen in a typical southwestern Colorado hillside community Juniper/piñon, Scrub oak/pine, skunkbrush, mahogany and open sage and grasses. (not what I would call a moist coniferous woodland)

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

The only bird similar, in my mind, is the Robin.

This bird had the black bar across the orange breast unlike the robin. Robins were in the area, fairly common at the time, but none were with this bird.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have seen Varied Thrushes several times and usually in great numbers all through Washington, British Columbia and Alaska.

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

None needed for identification, however since this was a first for Preston, we used the field guides for comments and comparisons so he could fix the bird in his mind.

This report was written from notes made during after X observation; from memory X

PRINT NAME: Richard Stransky SIGNATURE: Richard Stransky DATE: April 1, 1977  
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