

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

Species: Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*

Number: One, male(?).

Locality: Grand Isle, Supermarket woods, Jefferson Par., La.

Date: April 5, 1992.

Time: About 2:30 p.m.

Reporter: David P. Muth, 1617 Charlton Dr., N.O., La. 70122

With Reporter: Norton Nelkin, Mac Myers, Dan Purrington.

Other Observers: None

Light: In a thicket, but bird perched in a shaft of sunlight.

Optics: Zeiss Dialyt 10x40.

Distance: 25 m.

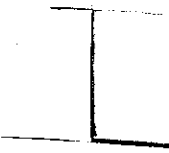
Duration: Five to ten seconds.

Habitat: A thicket in chenier woodland, with briars, *Rubus* sp., and Wax Myrtle *Myrica cerifera*, along a damp ditch.

Behavior: I saw the bird perched momentarily on a branch about two feet from the ground. It flew and I never saw it again. There were numerous Wood Thrushes, Gray Catbirds, a Brown Thrasher, and a few Prothonotary and Hooded warblers in the thicket.

Circumstances:

Nortie, Dan, and I were working south through the woods, parallel to the ditch. Mac was about fifty feet to our right (west). I saw Nortie react and lift his binoculars to look at a bird and I looked in the direction (east) he was looking. Nortie said "I've got a Varied Thrush and I'm not kidding." I followed his line of sight and (miraculously) spotted the bird perched in a shaft of light about two feet off the ground. After a few more seconds, the bird flew deeper into the thicket. While Mac, Dan, and Nortie searched for the bird, I went to get everyone's cameras. While I was gone Mac and Dan crept into the thicket and had brief looks at the bird, but I never saw it again.



Description:

A "robin" with an orange supercilium, primarily post-ocular, two broad orange wing-bars (tips of the greater and median coverts), and orange bases to the primaries, forming a Black-throated Blue Warbler-like "check-mark". The bird was facing slightly away from me so I did not see the breast. Back color did not clearly register; my eyes were glued to the field marks, and I was trying to confirm what Nortie had said. Thus I am embarrassed to say that I don't know what sex it was, except that Nortie later said it was clearly a male, and he certainly had it in view much longer than I did.

Voice: Not heard. (at least not for certain.)

Similar Species:

No other thrush shares these characteristics.

Photos: None.

Previous Experience: I've seen one previously in Louisiana and a few times in the northwest.

Aids: None.

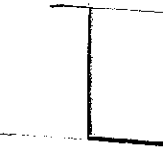
Circumstance of Description: My notes were written that evening on my field list.

Confidence Level: I am certain of the i.d.

Signature:

David P. Muth

Date: June 5, 1992

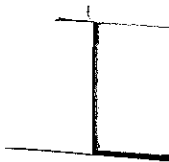


Mullharnes 14 heavy Trout - 10 just from 11:01 to 11:11
 9 of 10 YBSA associated with Mullh. - several seen feeding on mullet larvae.
 A: B: C: D: E: A: B: C: D: E: A: B: C: D: E:

Carolina Parakeet					White-breasted Nuthatch					Mourning Warbler				
Black-billed Cuckoo					Brown-headed Nuthatch					MacGillivray's Warbler				
Low-billed Cuckoo	3				Brown Creeper					Common Yellowthroat	✓	5		
Water Thrasher					Rock Wren					Hooded Warbler		50		
Blue-billed Ani					Carolina Wren					Wilson's Warbler		2		
Common Barn Owl					Bewick's Wren					Canada Warbler				
Immature Owl					House Wren	10	12			Painted Redstart				
Northern Screech Owl					Winter Wren					Yellow-breasted Chat				
Great Horned Owl					Sedge Wren					Hepatic Tanager				
Snowy Owl					March Wren	10				Summer Tanager	1	40		
Burrowing Owl					Golden-crowned Kinglet					Western Tanager				
Barred Owl					Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	8			Scarlet Tanager		18		
Long-eared Owl					Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		8			Northern Cardinal	✓	1		
Short-eared Owl					Northern Wheatear					Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
Northern Saw-whet Owl					Eastern Bluebird					Black-headed Grosbeak				
Lesser Nighthawk					Mountain Bluebird					Blue Grosbeak		4		
Common Nighthawk					Veery					Blue Bunting				
Antillean Nighthawk					Gray-checked Thrush					Lazuli Bunting				
Chuck-will's-widow					Swainson's Thrush					Indigo Bunting	5	55		
Whip-poor-will					Hermit Thrush		1			Painted Bunting		2		
Chimney Swift	✓				Wood Thrush		30			Dickcissel				
Vaux's Swift					American Robin		1			Green-tailed Towhee				
Huff-bellied Hummingbird					Varied Thrush		1			Rufous-sided Towhee				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4				Gray Catbird	1	15			Eastern Towhee				
Black-chinned Hummingbird					Northern Mockingbird	✓	✓			Spotted Towhee				
Anna's Hummingbird					Sage Thrasher					Bachman's Sparrow				
Albino Hummingbird					Brown Thrasher		5			American Tree Sparrow				
Broad-tailed Hummingbird					Curve-billed Thrasher					Chipping Sparrow				
Rufous Hummingbird					Water Pipit					Clay-colored Sparrow				
Allen's Hummingbird					Sprague's Pipit		2			Brewer's Sparrow				
Belted Kingfisher	✓				Cedar Waxwing		✓			Field Sparrow				
Red-headed Woodpecker					Loggerhead Shrike	✓	✓			Vesper Sparrow				
Red-bellied Woodpecker					(I) European Starling	✓	✓			Lark Sparrow				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10				White-eyed Vireo	5	45			Lark Bunting				
Williamson's Sapsucker					Bell's Vireo					Savannah Sparrow	12			
Downy Woodpecker					Solitary Vireo		1			Grasshopper Sparrow				
Hairy Woodpecker					Blue-headed Vireo					Henslow's Sparrow				
Red-cockaded Woodpecker					Plumbeous Vireo					Le Conte's Sparrow				
Northern Flicker					Yellow-throated Vireo		25			Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
Red-breasted Woodpecker					Warbling Vireo					Seaside Sparrow				
Gray-billed Woodpecker (Q)					Philadelphia Vireo					Fox Sparrow				
Five-sided Flycatcher					Red-eyed Vireo	1	15			Song Sparrow				
American Wood-Pewee					Black-whiskered Vireo					Lincoln's Sparrow				
Eastern Wood-Pewee					Bachman's Warbler (Q)					Swamp Sparrow	12			
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					Blue-winged Warbler		2			White-throated Sparrow		110		
Acadian Flycatcher					Golden-winged Warbler					Golden-crowned Sparrow				
Alder Flycatcher					Lucy's Warbler					White-crowned Sparrow				
Willow Flycatcher					Tennessee Warbler		6			Harris' Sparrow				
Alder/Willow Flycatcher					Orange-crowned Warbler	2	1			Dark-eyed Junco				
East Flycatcher					Nashville Warbler					Slate-colored Junco				
Hammond's Flycatcher					Northern Parula		1			Oregon Junco				
Empidonax sp.					Tropical Parula					Gray-headed Junco				
Eastern Phoebe					Yellow Warbler		1			McCown's Longspur				
Gray's Phoebe					Chestnut-sided Warbler					Lapland Longspur				
Hermit Flycatcher					Magnolia Warbler					Smith's Longspur				
Blue-throated Flycatcher					Cape May Warbler					Chestnut-collared Longspur				
Great Crested Flycatcher	3				Black-throated Blue Warbler					Bobolink				
Brown-crested Flycatcher					Yellow-rumped Warbler					Red-winged Blackbird	✓	✓		
Great Kiskadee					Myrtle Warbler	10	19			Eastern Meadowlark	✓	✓		
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher					Audubon's Warbler					Western Meadowlark				
Tropical Kingbird					Blk.-throated Gray Warbler					Yellow-headed Blackbird				
Louisiana Kingbird					Townsend's Warbler					Rusty Blackbird				
Massena's Kingbird					Hermit Warbler					Brewer's Blackbird				
Western Kingbird					Black-throated Green Warbler					Great-tailed Grackle				
Eastern Kingbird	15	60			Blackburnian Warbler					Boat-tailed Grackle	✓	✓		
Gray Kingbird					Yellow-throated Warbler		1			Common Grackle	✓	✓		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher					Pine Warbler					Bronzed Cowbird	✓	✓		
Turned Lark					Prairie Warbler					Brown-headed Cowbird	✓	✓		
Purple Martin	✓	✓			Palm Warbler		2			Orchard Oriole	2	60		
Tree Swallow					Bay-breasted Warbler					Northern Oriole		1		
Rough-winged Swallow					Blackpoll Warbler					Baltimore Oriole				
Bank Swallow					Cerulean Warbler					Bullock's Oriole				
Idi Swallow					Black-and-white Warbler	3	25			Scott's Oriole				
Arn Swallow	3	2			American Redstart					Purple Finch				
Blue Jay	✓	✓			Prothonotary Warbler		75			House Finch				
American Crow					Worm-eating Warbler		10			Red Crossbill				
Sh Crow					Swainson's Warbler		1			Pine Siskin				
Row sp.					Ovenbird		2			Lesser Goldfinch				
Carolina Chickadee					Northern Waterthrush		1			American Goldfinch				
Soft Titmouse					Louisiana Waterthrush		1			Evening Grosbeak				
Red-breasted Nuthatch					Kentucky Warbler		5			(I) House Sparrow	✓	✓		

Notes:

Varied Thrush - seen at about 2:30 p.m. - in a thicket of briars, was mostly etc. along a deep ditch, in somewhat open. I saw it for maybe 10 seconds after North pointed it out - it was perched facing away from me at an angle in decent light (on a bare branch). A "whia" call - brown, back (not really noted), with an orange shiny belly, orange wings and "check" wings (leaves to primaries). Did not see throat or throat. My impression of back color is only vague, so I have no opinion on sex. Left to get camera - could not re-locate.



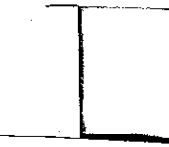
LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the LBRC Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or this format when submitting records for review (to assure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to: LBRC Secretary, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and scientific name: *Varied Thrush (Icterus Naevius)*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 male(?) in worn basic plumage (moulting)
3. Locality: Louisiana state Jefferson parish
Grand Isle specific locality
4. Date(s) when seen: April 5, 1992
5. Times of day when seen: Unsure - around 2 PM, I believe
6. Reporting observer and address:
Norton Melkin
23 Swallow St.
New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
David Muth
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
None
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast. Fairly even conditions
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
10x40 Zeiss, in good shape
11. Distance to bird:
around 30 yards
12. Duration of observation:
around 35 seconds
13. Habitat:
wastal woods. Sitting in open on a low, horizontal branch, when seen.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc. - include and stress any habits used in identification):
see above. Sitting. Flew into adjacent scrub. Could not work back out into view.



15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen). Include if possible: total length or relative size compared to other species present or familiar species; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, leg and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species:

Back, top of head and neck, tail, and wings gray. Wings were especially worn, ^{and faded} may have been missing some flight feathers. Two orange wing bars w/ various orange spots on wings (orange spots somewhat faded). Underparts: white undertail coverts. Rest of underparts robin orange - including neck, throat and chin. Wide black line through eye. Orange supercilium (sloping off top of head as sort of a cap). Some abnormalities: (i) appeared to be some white spots on wings, but these may have been faded orange spots. (ii) Bill appeared somewhat pale, rather than dark, but this could have been the effect of light or of the somewhat brief look. (iii) Did not see black breast band. I suspect that this was the result of the angle the bird was sitting at. (iv) could also have seen the result of worn and faded plumage, but I doubt it. Also

16. Voice:

Didn't hear

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

From all *Turdus* thrushes, including Robin by the combination of orange wing bars and spots and black eyeline with orange supercilium.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained (By whom? Attached?):

None

19. Previous experience with this species:

Seen some in San Francisco and one in Cameroon.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: None (though did check male-female distinction, which I was uncertain of).

21. This description written from: ☒ notes made during observation; ☐ notes made after observation (date: _____); ☐ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? Absolutely. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter:

24. Date and time of writing this account:

12:05 PM 4/6/92

after about 30 seconds, I tried to get Muth & Huntington to see the bird. Muth, do, and I looked again for about 5 sec. Again to get my glasses off the bird to help RDP see bird, but then bird flew. Later RDP and Mac Murr got (non-identifiable) glimpses of the bird, but we never could see it well again. It just disappeared.

