

UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGNIFICANT SIGHTING RECORD DOCUMENTATION

(accepted)
1982-2940

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Lat/long _____ Reporter _____ Sci Name _____
Habitat _____ Record type _____ Serial No. 1982-037
Date/time _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Northern Water Thrush
Scientific Name Seiurus noveboracensis
Sight date 25 Sep 1982 time 1045 duration 20 minutes
Distance from bird 15 to 40 feet
Light conditions good
Optical equip. 7x35 binocs
Photo equip. -
Number of this species seen 1
Notes made at time of sighting Date this report was prepared.
Notes made later from memory
Photo available Photo enclosed 27 Sep 1982

Weather at time of this observation.
Overcast, 65° F, no wind.
Prior weather & number of days since change
Fair weather, light winds, warm temperatures during previous week. About 10 days since last storm.
Locality
Enoch, Iron Co.

Male Adult Age unk. Basic Plumage Light Phase
Female Subadult ♀ or Imm Breeding Dark Phase
Sex Unk. Juv/Imm _____ year bird Eclipse Molting

Description of bird. Size, Colors, all field marks OBSERVED - Unique features of this bird, if any.

Bird was about 5 inches long. Upperparts were dark brown with no streaking or other markings. Thrust & breast were creamy with brown streaking. The throat had a few small brown spots. The belly & undertail coverts were creamy-yellow. The wings were dark brown & lacked wing bars or other markings. There was a white eye stripe. The bill was brown, about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and shaped:  Legs were light brown. Eyes were dark. The tail was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, dark brown, & square tipped.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

None

Variations from expected field marks. . .

None

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Louisiana Waterthrush usually lacks any markings on the throat & has a white belly & undertail coverts.

Behavior of this bird. Include names of other birds with this one and any interaction.

Bird was first observed when it flew from a ditch up onto a low limb of an elm tree. It walked along the limb, constantly twittering like a spotted sandpiper as it walked. It flew to adjacent trees, occasionally dropping to the ground briefly. It generally stayed within 6 feet of the ground, except once when it flew 20 ft up into elm. It then flew to adjacent trees & was not relocated.

Habitat this location and near by or adjacent habitat if significant.

Windrow of 20-30 foot tall elm trees. Adjacent habitat was alfalfa fields.

Describe birds song or sounds.

A sharp chirp, heard twice.

Names of other observers. A/C + phone #

Verla Jean Hedges
Leah & Dick Forrester
Jacquie Bechtold

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I have observed both waterthrushes previously in Texas.

Print name & mailing address below.

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Signature: Steven P. Hedges