

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Northern Yellowthroat Scientific Name: Seiurus noveboracensis
 Date: Sept. 14, 1985 Time: 11-12 a.m. Length of time observed: 4 mins during 30 min.
 Number: 1 Age: adult Sex: ?
 Location: Beaver pond, 4 miles up Lamb's Canyon
 Latilong: Elevation (if known): approx. 8,000'
 (aspen-fir zone)
 Distance to bird: 30-40 feet Light conditions: sunny, good
 Optical equipment: Bushnell 7 x 35 binocs
 Weather: clear and sunny
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

I first seen following dipper down a log, bobbing two feet behind. Slimmer and longer-legged but same body angle and size - 6-7 inches. Rusty-brown back and head, which was held forward, with a conspicuous buffy-cream eye stripe; the underparts were even more conspicuously creamy-white with heavily streaked-spotted breast and along sides under wings (it didn't look streaked to the legs). Later, it appeared on the shore - walking along turning leaves, feeding, about a foot above the water-line. It always seemed to be in a hurry - head extended, walking rapidly, hardly pausing when it pecked at something on the ground. The bobbing motion (like a sandpiper's) was not as noticeable on land as on the log. The eyering was not immediately visible but was seen once when the bird walked thru a patch of extended sun - not a conspicuous trait, had to be looked for. It had a typical warbler-thrush bill and I couldn't see that the legs were any particular color.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: I didn't hear anything that I'm sure of.

Behavior:

See above.

Habitat: Riparian - pond with logs and vegetation close to shore. Willows, dogwood, spruce-fir nearby. Running water thru area.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

The eyestripe quickly told me that it wasn't any of our usual thrushes, which could have been on the ground - but on a log? The spot-streaks reminded me of the eastern wood thrushes but they didn't extend down far enough. Also, the behavior and general stance of the bird - hasty, flat walk - was not thrush-like. The creamy-white underparts and flanks ruled out the Louisiana waterthrush (when I got home). Could it have been

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Seen a lot of thrushes clearly this summer; never seen a waterthrush before. Bill Payne saw it first and identified it. Then we checked his field guide (Robbins et al.)

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Checked Peterson, Nat'l Geo. Guide, and Muntz Guide series after I returned home. Hope they haven't changed anything; am not aware that they did. The behavior is what impressed me most as distinctive, and the posture of the bird.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting _____ notes made later from memory

Observer: Ruth Jensen, Dorothy Egan,
and Bill Payne

Signature:

Ruth Jensen

Address:

2480 Emerson Avenue
Salt Lake City, UT 84108

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Bill Payne called it; Dorothy was there
but not as experienced.

Date prepared: Sept. 18, 1985

Return this form to:

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