

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: OVENBIRD Scientific Name: *Seiurus aurocapillus*
 Date: Sept. 21-22-23, 1988 Time: 7AM → 7+PM Length of time observed: several hours total
 Number: 1 (3 days) Age: adult Sex: ?

Location: 655 Canyon Road, Logan, UT 84321

Latilong: 3

Elevation (if known): 4500'

Distance to bird: 10' - 35'

Light conditions: very good to poor,
depending on time of day

Optical equipment: Bushnell 7x26 Custom Compact

Weather: clear to partly cloudy

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

- Plump little bird, about same size as the house finches that were also in the area — shaped differently, though — about 6" long —
- olive drab upper, nice white breast and belly with sharply defined black streaks —
- pink legs, plainly visible even in poor light —
- 2 dark stripes on head, with area in between these stripes a dirty brown-orange color — this "median stripe" not always clearly visible, but showed well when the bird entered sunlit patches —
- fairly prominent white eye ring
- walked with a distinctive flair, flirting its wings now and then. Immediately seen as something new and different from the normal population. (Area is a heavily-supplied and almost constantly-watched bird-feeding setup.)

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: *NONE*

Behavior: *Walked on ground, picking up insects; appeared to have slightly injured right foot. Flew up 4' to 6' into cover in tree branches when startled.*

Habitat: *wet, rather dark understory of large Norway firs*

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

Conceivably might be mistaken for one of the water thrushes, but this bird had no eye stripe.

What experience have you had with this and similar species: *I have seen ovenbirds in the hundreds in New Jersey and Pennsylvania; have spent probably 20-30 hours recording their calls and observing them at close range on the nesting ground.*

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

Checked range map in Natl. Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America, first edition. No influences.

Significance of record in this area or the state: *?*

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

none

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

Observer: *Thomas J. Lyon*

Signature:

Address: *Janis T. Lyon*

*Thomas J. Lyon
Janis T. Lyon*

*655 Canyon Road
Logan, UT 84321*

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

*Scott Cheney Larry Ryel
Keith Archibald
Ron Ryel*

Date prepared: *10/10/88*

Return this form to:

*Ella Sorensen
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