

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: OVEN BIRD

Scientific Name: *Seiurus atrocapillus*

Date: Sept. 24, 1988 Time: 4:20 PM

Length of time observed: 5 min.

Number: 1 Age: ?

Sex: ?

Location: Beryl, Iron Co. Utah

Latilong: 19

Elevation (if known): 6,000 ± ft.

Distance to bird: 15 ft.

Light conditions: excellent

Optical equipment: BINOS 10x50

Weather: HOT, Clear - light breeze

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

Bird was seen walking on ground, but without the bobbing of a waterthrush.

Upperparts were a brownish-olive except for the crown which was rusty down the center and bordered with black stripes.
 Underparts were white with black splotches, the throat and the undertail coverts lacked these black splotches.

The face was ~~the~~ basically the brownish-olive, there was a contrasting white eye-ring.
leg color was pink.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

None heard

Behavior:

Bird walked on ground in the grass and leaf litter at the base of a line of trees. When flushed, flew into a tree and continued walking up and down the branches.

Habitat:

Warbler trap in the Escalante Desert of Iron Co., Utah.

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

Northern waterthrush; though a groundwalker this bird did not bob while walking. Louisiana Waterthrush do not have a rusty crown bordered with black. This bird did not have a bold supercilium as do waterthrushes. This bird had a bold white eyering on a solid olive-brown face, quite unlike the partial eye-ring of water thrush.

Water Pipit. . . only similarity was that this bird walked along the ground, but it didn't bob as do pipits. Size, coloration, and actions totally different.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

This was the first time I had ever seen an Ovenbird, but the Northern water thrush and Water pipits are relatively common here.

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

National Geographic

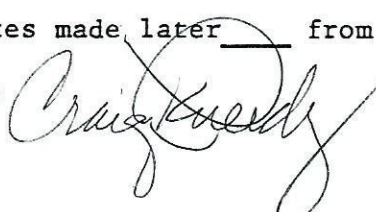
Significance of record in this area or the state:

Sorta rare

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

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

Observer: CRAIG L. KNEEDY

Signature: 

Address: 314 S. 4500 W.

WEST Point Utah
84015

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

RICHARD & ELLA SORENSEN

Date prepared: 12/26/86

Return this form to:

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