

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

COMMON NAME: Eastern Bluebird

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sialia sialis*

DATE: 14-Dec-2002 TIME: 9:40am LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 10 minutes

NUMBER: 1 AGE: adult SEX: Male

LOCATION: East end of Logan Golf & Country Club golf course,
Logan, Utah

LAT/LONG: 3 ELEVATION: 4800'

DISTANCE TO BIRD: 20-50 ft

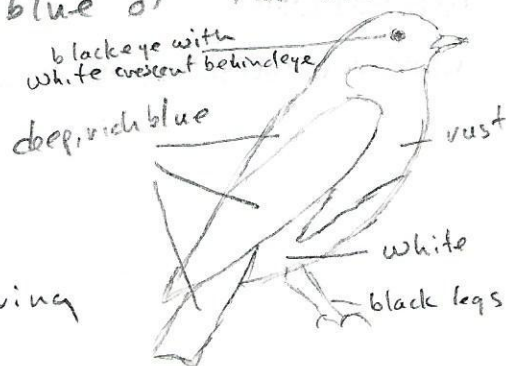
WEATHER: Bright overcast, light wind, temperature ~ 40° F

LIGHT CONDITIONS: Bright overcast

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:

The bird was a medium sized thrush, noticeably smaller than the co-occurring American Robins, but about the same size as cedar waxwings. The body was rather plump and the tail relatively short. The bill was relatively short. The back, wings, head and upper tail were a rich blue color. The eye was dark with a white crescent on the posterior part of the eye. The throat, breast, upper belly and flanks were a rich rust color while the lower belly, posterior flanks and under tail coverts were clean white. The rust on the underparts wrapped partly around the neck and graded into the blue of the back of the neck. The legs were blackish.

The richness in color of this male suggests that it is of the eastern subspecies (*Sialia sialis sialis*). Seen during Cache County Christmas count.



SONG OR CALL AND METHOD OF DELIVERY: none

BEHAVIOR: sat nervously in or flew between three trees.

HABITAT: Scattered bare deciduous trees along a canal that runs through an otherwise open golf course.

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED:

Western Bluebird: The observed bird had a rust throat, white lower belly and undertail coverts, and no triangular rust patch on the back - all which are distinctly not characteristic of western bluebird.

Lazuli Bunting: The observed bird had a rust throat, thin beak, and no wing bar - all which are distinctly not characteristics of lazuli bunting

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:

I have seen many Eastern bluebirds in Michigan, Minnesota and southeastern Arizona. I also found a female eastern bluebird in Logan Utah in 1997 about 1/4 mile from this observed male.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

Sibley Guide to birds, National Geographic field guide to birds - 4th ed.

DESCRIPTION FROM: NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING NOTES MADE LATER _____

FROM MEMORY _____

OBSERVER: Ron Rye

SIGNATURE: 

ADDRESS: 1649 N. 1000 E.

CITY: North Logan

STATE: UT ZIP: 84341

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

Keith Archibald, Susan Drown, Jean Lown and several others on Dec. 15.

DATE PREPARED: 14-Dec-2002

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO _____, DRAWING _____, TAPE _____, OTHER _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 1042
CEDAR CITY, UT 84721-1042