

650-01-1989



Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association

Route 2, Kempton, Pennsylvania 19529 Telephone 215 - 756-6961

17 October 1989

MEMO: Barb and Frank Haas, Rudy Keller

RE: Rare bird report

OFFICERS

President

JOSEPH W. TAYLOR
20 Parrish Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

Vice President

WILLIAM H. PARKS
1813 Penn Avenue
Wyomissing, PA 19609

Secretary

MICHAEL HARWOOD
Box 51
Washington, CT 06793

Treasurer

ALAN CRAWFORD, JR.
1531 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

DIRECTORS

KATHLEEN S. ANDERSON
HOWARD P. BROKAW
ARNOLD K. BROWN, JR.
ALAN CRAWFORD, JR.
DEBORAH S. EDGE
FRANK B. GILL
MICHAEL HARWOOD
ROBERT C. HUGHES
CLIFFORD L. JONES
DANIEL KLEM, JR.
STEPHEN B. ORESMAN
KATHLEEN E. OTT
WILLIAM H. PARKS
CHANDLER S. ROBBINS
JOHN ROWLETT
JOSEPH W. TAYLOR
WILLIAM H. THOMPSON
MINTURN T. WRIGHT, III

Executive Director

STANLEY E. SENNER

Curator

JAMES J. BRETT

Greetings! Enclosed are the xeroxed field notes from two Cape May birders who were visiting Hawk Mountain Sanctuary this past weekend. Early on Sunday morning they sighted a Townsend's Solitaire at the North Lookout. Hawk Mountain staff and volunteers were notified and then searched for the bird for over an hour without success. We did discover a huge concentration of passerine migrants in the mountaintop forest indicating there had been an incredible migration the previous night. Swainson's thrush, catbirds, towhees, white-throated sparrows, kinglets, etc. were sighted. Jeff Bouton, the primary observer of the Solitaire, is familiar with the species and I have faith that his identification was accurate. I have read over his notes and find them very complete. I did not call any hotlines, etc. since the bird was no longer present. I did notify Wagoner's Gap lookout, in case the bird headed downridge.

Since I was not sure who should get reports of rare birds I am sending this account to the three of you, in hopes that you will forward it on to anyone who should know and make sure it gets recorded in the appropriate places. If you need additional details from myself or the two observers, we are all happy to provide them.

By the way, we have broken HMS records for kestrel, merlin, and we are on the verge with peregrine for the season count!

Hope you are enjoying a good fall,

Sincerely,

Laurie Coodrich

650-01-1989

①

10/15/89

≈ 0745

Townsend's Solitaire - Adult.

Myadestes townsendi

- bird flew in to bush ≈ 1:00 from the pit on N. lookout.

- first noticed grey back and white outer tail feathers thought initially that the bird may have been a mockingbird.

- after landing the bird slowly pumped its tail

- once the bird had landed I realized that the tail and bill were too short for "rocker"

- the bird was ≈ 50' away and was sitting very erect.

- I picked up my binocs and noticed a prominent ~~white eye ring~~ ^{white eye ring} on a uniformly colored steel grey bird

- the bird's size was approximately that of a slim robin

- Having ~~just come~~ ^{just come} from Colorado (~~from~~ ^{from} ~~Colorado~~ ^{Colorado} → August 89) I was familiar with solitaires and felt that this bird was definitely one

~~bird~~

- I told my partner what I thought this bird was and we moved up for a closer look.

- I made sure that he ^{looked} ~~looked~~ for the white eye ring, white outer tail feathers, + bulky wing

650-01-1989

The bird flew towards the pit and perched in the open 10' closer to us

- we saw the buffy wing patches quite well as it flew up and landed on a snag in the open

- It stayed on that particular snag for over 2 minutes → we unfortunately didn't have a camera because we were within 30' of the bird at this point

- there was another man with binoculars on the watch but he didn't want to look at the bird → just ~~seemed~~ seemed disinterested, despite my frantic pleas.

→ after two minutes the bird flew up into the trees behind the North lookout

→ At this point I sprinted to S. lookout and the gate while my partner tried to follow the bird as it worked through

- the trees - Unfortunately it was lost in the trees before I got anyone's attention

→ similar species

N. Mockingbird - has yellow eye, streaked flanks, longer tail & bill → The bird in question had a dark eye, shorter tail & bill, and a more erect posture

Gray Catbird - has uniform gray color & dark eye

650-01-1989

(2)

but lacks - white outer tail, white eye ring,
and buffy wing patches

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - has shorter bill, longer tail
in proportion to the body, and white eye line
but lacks the buffy wing patches ~~and~~
~~Red-bellied~~

Description

- steel grey bird uniform throughout
- had dark eye with white eye ring
around it
- white outer tail feathers
- buffy patch on ~~inner~~ flight
feathers



- was ²robin sized but thinner throughout
^{+ mid-length tail}
- bill was straight ~~short~~ ^{Every thrust 1/4}
- showed erect posture ●
- pumped tail slowly
- head was smoothly rounded
- showed extremely faint, indistinct
moustache streak, barely visible
- did not vocalize

Viewing conditions

The bird was seen for ~~2~~ ²⁻³ minutes between
2:30 - 5:00 the bird was on exposed
snags on the side of the lookout.

650-01-1989

there was no vegetation in front of the bird and it was perched just at or below eye level. The valleys were fogged in but the area around the lookout was clear and the sun was bright. The bird was perched to the NNE, with the ~~sun~~ light coming in from the east. The bird was lit well from the side and was seen through Swift Avulubon 8.5x44 binoculars and a 20x Bushnell space master scope mounted on a rifle stock.

observers

Jeff Bouton

75 Muriel Drive

Rochester, NY 14612

(716) 621-7884

- c/o CMBO

t.1 December

Harry Fink

816 Amhurst Rd

N. Cape May, NJ 08204

(609) 886-0951

Note: all notes taken before reviewing Field guide

- have much experience w/ this species in the CO Rockies.

Townsend's Solitaire 650-01-1989

Notes by Harry Fink

10/15/89

Steel gray all over
white out tail feather
Buffy on wing
about size of ^{little} ~~the~~ ^{disse} ~~the~~ ^{wing}
Bill like wax - ing
white eye rings (Pronounced)
Dark eye
white puffy feathers
under wings
Flat across Tail
little buff under wing
in flight
No barring on wings
Long tailed

0550

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Townsend's Solitaire (Myadestes townsendi)**

Date of Sighting: **15 October 1989 to 15 October 1989**

Location: **HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY**

County: **BERKS**

Observer(s): **Jeff Bouton**

Harry Fink

Date of Submission: **1989**

Submitted by: **Laurie Goodrich**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas		X						
N. Pulcinella		X						
E. Kwater		X						
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams		X						
P. Schwalbe		X						
J. Skinner		X						
TOTALS		6	1					
DECISION		X						

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

3-31-95