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Ridgway
662-01-2005
Dave Dickman
2/5/05 PVT
Bucks CO



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REDWING
662-01-2005
Bill ETTER
2/5/05 PVP
BUNKS CO



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662-01-2005

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Species (common & scientific): Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex(es):** ?

Age(s) & Plumage(s): Possibly 1st year

Date Seen: 2/5/2005 **Time: Approx.** 12:30PM to 5PM

Where Seen (Town/County: New Britain Twp., Bucks Co.

Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake): Peace Valley Park

Observer Reporting:

Name: August Mirabella

Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

E-mail: augustmirabella@aol.com

Telephone (optional): 215-368-0594

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you): Jessica Huff who I was with and was first to get on the bird. Devich Farbotnik came shortly afterward and confirmed our initial conclusion.

Distance to Bird: As close as 25 feet

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Clear, sun at our backs

Optical Equipment Used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins & Leica 77APO w/20-60X Zoom

Habitat: Tree line with multiflora rose thickets edging a weedy farm field on one side and various thickets, and tree clumps on the other ; also a grass yard with leaf litter.

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage: The bird was with Amer. Robins and looked much like them in structure and behavior. The back, nape and cap, as well as the auricular area were all about the same color gray-brown. Initially, these areas looked pretty much the same color as a Robin's back. The lore was dark. There was a bold light supercilium that went well behind the eye which in the bright sun, I believe had a slight orange tinge but no where near as dark as a Varied Thrush. The malar area was light, also, with a broken dark lateral throat-stripe below. The auricular area between the light supercilium and malar area was dark but had some paler areas. The throat was whitish with some streaks. I think all these light areas showed a slight orange tinge but maybe it was the sun since it didn't look that way when it was in shadow late in the afternoon. The bill was dark with a well-defined break on the lower mandible between the dark and yellow base. This bill marking was one of the first things I noted, so it must have been conspicuous. The breast and flanks were heavily streaked but the central mid-belly and lower belly were largely white. The undertail coverts were mostly unstreaked. The tail was basically the same color as the back and appeared notched which may have been a missing feather. Striking were the flanks where the folded wings meet the body. They were an orange color which extended to the axillars which were even more solid

and very bright. When the wings were open, the orange was so striking that this color was undoubtedly on the underwing coverts as well although I didn't record that at the time. I saw this at close range and it struck me as being the color of a very bright male Amer. Robin's breast. There were light featheredges on wing coverts. I believe some of the "experts" that came to see it suggested these featheredges made it a first winter bird. The legs and eye appeared dark. Although, basically the same size as the Amer. Robins, it appeared more slender and in the video I took, it looked smaller.

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Feeding on multiflora rose hips and in leaf litter on the lawn of a house. Occasionally flying to perch in a tree.

Vocalizations: None

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report):

My video is being submitted with this documentation. Jessica Huff made a watercolor from memory and referring to the photos of the bird. A digital copy was sent to Nick Pulcinella. I assume he has the photos of the bird from Devich Farbotnik & Bill Etter.

Separation from Similar Species (How you eliminated others): The only thing it resembles in N. Amer. is juvenile Amer. Robin and Varied Thrush. Since it was completely missing the bold wing pattern of Varied Thrush, that can be eliminated and juvenile Am. Robin would not be expected at this time of year.

Discussion (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it):

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species: No experience with this species or other foreign species of thrush.

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not): Yes. Video and photos confirm the ID

References:

During Observation: None available

After Observation: National Geographic Guide; my video & photos posted on the Internet taken by Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik, and Dave DeReamus

Date of report: 2/10/2005

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella



Species (common & scientific): Redwing Thrush (*Turdus ilicus*)

Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex(es):** There was no indication that I saw or was aware of to distinguish its gender.

Age(s) & Plumage(s): Again there was no information to my knowledge to determine an age or particular plumage

Date Seen: 2/5/05 **Time:** Initially between 11 and 11:30 A.M. Then found again around 1 and was then seen until sundown (approx. 5 P.M.)

Where Seen (Town/County): Doylestown/Bucks County

Exact Location

Peace Valley Park. On the Unami trail at the farthest corner from the nature center

Observer Reporting:

Name: Jessica Huff

Address: 501 Middle Road
Perkasie, PA 18944

E-mail: NicoBlue311@comcast.net

Telephone (optional): (215)249-1715

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you):

August Mirabella was with me at the time of the first sighting. Then identified by Devich Farbotnik. Seen by 20-30 others overall.

Distance to Bird:

First seen at about 30 ft. For most of the afternoon it stayed within 100 ft.

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you):

Clear sky, sun mostly to back.

Optical Equipment Used: 10x25 Bushnell

Habitat: Multiflora rose bushes and neighboring lawn at the edge of a small field.

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage; bill, eye, & leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

It seemed smaller yet more plump than the other Robins it was with. At first glance, most noticeable was the eye stripe. It was that of a pale yellow. With a slight eye ring also. A dirty dark brown streaking on the breast with what seemed to be more white underneath. Its back was almost identical to the slate grey of a Robin, right down to the tail. I noticed also a slight notch in the end of tail along with a two-toned bill. There was only a little reddish lining that you could see then the wing was not raised but once the wing was up the gorgeous reddish orange was very eye catching.

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing):

It was foraging first in a patch of thicker brush and moved more out in the open later in the day. Was interacting with 10-15 other Robins looking for food in the patches on the ground where there was no snow. Seemed unaffected by the onlookers.

Vocalizations: None made.

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report):

Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report Form

Photo: Various people had taken pictures that afternoon.

Video Recording: August Mirabella and Devich Farbotnik

Audio Recording: None **Drawing:** Yes

Name, Address, e-mail, telephone (optional) of photographer, etc.

August Mirabella

1443 Wheaton Lane

North Wales, PA 19454

(215) 368-0594

Separation from Similar Species (How you eliminated others):

When first seen, the first thing that came to mind was an immature robin until of course realizing it was the wrong time of year. At that point I could rule out a robin. Then August suggested a Varied Thrush. Then even a possible thrush/robin hybrid. Only once the bird flew from our sight did August and I discuss with Devich about other possibilities. Then he showed me a picture of a redwing of which I had never seen before, it matched perfectly.

Discussion (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it):

There were quite a few other people there at the second time it was found to identify and confirm that this was indeed a Redwing from seeing it outside of the United States.

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species:

Only as similar as a Robin. Otherwise had never seen anything like it.

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not):

Yes, after the research done and others confirmation it seemed unmistakable at that point. I think the large orange/red under the wing was the biggest give away.

References:

During Observation: None at the very time of the first sighting. Only reference I had on me at the time was Sibley's which actually did not have it in the book.

After Observation: National Geographic North American Birds

Date of report: 3/12/05

Signature of Observer:

Jessica Huff

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpulcinella@comcast.net

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Redwing (Turdus iliacus)
Subspecies, if known

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) unknown

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): I believe an adult, but I have to admit I am not entirely sure and have not consulted a guide

DATE OF OBSERVATION 2-5-05 TIME 4:15 pm - 5:00 pm

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Bucks County, Pa

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) PEACE VALLEY PARK

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name John Feadak
Address 26 Race Street
City Bradford Pa State Pa ZIP 16701
e-mail (optional) jfeadak@att.net phone (optional) 814 362 1052

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): Many including Joe Feadak, Arlene Koch, Devitch Farbutnik, Steve Farbutnik, Frank & Barb HAAS

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) WOODED FENCEROW between a shrubby field and a lawn - Trees were mostly deciduous

DISTANCE TO BIRD 30-40 yards

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) sunlight - setting to my back and shoulder

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Leica Binoculars and whatever type of scope Devitch Farbutnik has.

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): A little smaller than the Robins it was with out pretty close to the same body shape, maybe a little thinner. The under wing was rusty - easily seen in flight. The eye was dark and rust could be seen under the wing on the side. The breast side, flanks, belly and tail were heavily splatch/spotting/streaking giving the impression of a young robin. Eye was dark with a lighter buffy ~~sup~~ eyebrow extending back toward the neck, spotting on throat/neck seemed to form mustacial-like area with a lighter stripe above it in the malar area. The auricular area was dark extending past the eye to the bill - The lower eye appeared to have a little half ring. The bill was bi-colored - yellow near the base, dark at the tip.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) The bird was seen flying with a small group of Robins from tree to tree to ground to fence to brush. I observed it eat an unknown berry + I also saw it defecate - it was very hard to see when still.

VOCALIZATIONS NONE heard.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____
If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) Reddish underwing + eyebrow stripe separate it from most other Thrushes - streaking pattern separates it from others. Coloration + season separated it from young robin

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:
Wow - I know there were some decent pics. taking of the bird by others

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES NONE with redwing - I know N.A Thrushes well.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) YES The bird was clear and in good light. All coloration was definitive from eyebrow to rusty underwing. It was a Redwing!!

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation NONE
After observation NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 2/7/05

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER [Signature]

Documentation for the PORC

Species: Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

Number: 1

Sex, age, plumage: adult

Date: Saturday, 05 Feb, 2005

Location: Peace Valley Park, New Britain Twp, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Observer:

Bill Etter

1030 Old Bethlehem Road #2

Perkasie, PA 18944

etter@netcarrier.com

215-964-3613

Additional observers: Devich Farbotnik, August Mirabella, Steve Farbotnik, Alan Brady, Arlene Koch and Dave DeReamus were among the first to see the bird; at least thirty others saw it by nightfall.

Habitat:

The bird was seen mainly in a typical semi-rural residential yard setting: a small, lightly shaded snow-covered lawn with brushy to wooded edges, with scattered trees of various size/age, and an adjacent field.

Conditions:

Bright pleasant winter afternoon with little to no wind.

Distance + Optics:

The bird was seen as close as 50-150 feet most of the time, viewed with 10x24 binoculars and 78mm scope at approximately 30x.

Description:

Having received a call about a strange thrush-like bird, I arrived at Peace Valley and found several observers watching the bird in question. It was associated with a flock of American Robins *Turdus migratorius*, and at first glance resembled that species in habit and structure. As it foraged on the ground in close proximity to several American Robins, the differences became obvious. The bird was smaller. It had a prominent creamy white supercilium. While the flanks were rust colored, the breast had a heavily streaked dark on light pattern. Back was olive-brown. The primary difference was soon revealed: when the bird flew, its underwing was rusty red in color, just like the flanks!

Differentiation from similar species:

See above for differentiation from American Robin. While other Asian and European thrushes may bear a superficial resemblance to Redwing *Turdus iliacus*, I am aware of

none that possess the unique combination of heavily streaked breast, creamy supercilium, and, most importantly, red flank and underwing.

Behavior:

The bird spent much of its time foraging on the ground. It was also seen in flight on several occasions, roosting in a coniferous tree, as well as in a dense wood edge.

Vocalizations: None

Supporting evidence: Seven photographs included with report:

Redwing1 – partially obscured but viable size comparison with American Robin

Redwing2 – blurry zoom shows details of rusty flank

Redwing3 – indirect size comparison with American Robin

Redwing4 – wings outstretched, red underwing

Redwing5 – view of back (solid, unmottled back seems to indicate adult)

Redwing6 – view of back, with facial detail

Redwing7 – overall view of bird, most field marks obvious

Previous experience:

No previous experience with this species other than pictures (of the recent Olympia, WA bird, in particular...).

Certainty of identification: I am 100% confident of the identification of this bird.

References consulted: I reviewed my National Geographic 3rd Edition on the way to see the bird, as well as afterwards. I have since looked at numerous descriptive and pictorial references.

Date of report: 18 May 2005.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

Date of Sighting: 5 February 2005 to 5 February 2005

Location: PEACE VALLEY PARK

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): Jessica Huff, August Mirabella, et al.

Date of Submission: 2004, 2005

Submitted by: Jessica Huff, August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik, Bill Etter, Dave DeReamus, John Fedak

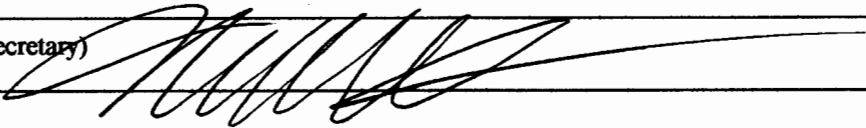
Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: *7/10*Signature (Secretary) Date: *10/25/05*