





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  
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

666-02-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Varied Thrush  
Subspecies (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) Female

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): adult

DATE OF OBSERVATION 12/6/03 TIME 1 PM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Lower Paxton Township

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) 216 Pearl Street

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Jane Webster  
Address 216 Pearl Street  
City Harrisburg State PA ZIP 17109  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) 717 526-2127

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

Will Webster, Sandy Lockerman

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) wooded suburban yard

DISTANCE TO BIRD 20 feet

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Sunny, clear  
Looking south, the sun was in the southwest

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED binoculars

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):

orange-yellow breast and supercilium  
blue-gray head, back and breastband  
Two wing bars and other wing markings  
Long, thin bill  
Legs orange  
mottling on lower flanks  
partial eye ring (top of eye)  
About the size of a cardinal

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

**BEHAVIOR** (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) the bird was perched in a tree about 20 feet above ground when first observed. It also was observed feeding on the ground, eating seed scattered on a patch.

**VOCALIZATIONS**

None heard

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:**

Photograph ☒ Video recording ☐ Audio recording ☐ Drawing ☐

**Photographer/recorder/illustrator:**

Name Will Webster  
Address 216 Pearl St  
City Harrisburg State PA ZIP 17109  
e-mail (optional)  phone (optional) 717 526-2127

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 and number of specimen if known

**SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES** (how you eliminated others) Size, color, pattern, bill shape

**DISCUSSION** - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

Several other observers saw the bird on subsequent days. As of 12/14/03, it is still being observed daily in the same area.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

**PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES**

None

**ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION?** (why or why not)

Yes. Bird was observed at very close range. Plumage and size are distinctively different from other species seen with it.

**REFERENCES CONSULTED:**

During observation Sibley Guide to birds  
After observation National Geographic, Peterson, Golden guide (American west)

**DATE OF THIS REPORT:** 12/13/03

**SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER**

Jane K. Webster

666-02-2003

On December 7, 2003 I received a call from Deuane Hoffman that a Varied Thrush was observed at a private residence in Dauphin County. Deuane is an expert birder and widely known throughout PA birding circles. On December 9, 2003 between 11-12 noon I also observed this same bird. Numerous other people had seen the bird as evidenced by the owner's guest book. The owner indicated that it had been present since December 6. The sky was overcast and the wind was calm. The temperature was approximately 35 degrees.

The following notes are drawn from memory on Dec 10. After standing quietly near the backyard feeders for about 15 minutes a robin-sized bird was noted landing on a tree branch about 20 feet off the ground and 50 feet away. The immediate features I noted were the orange breast and eyebrow and dark back. The belly was orange turning to white toward the rump. The dark back was broken by irregular markings but wing bars were not noted as described in Peterson's field guide. The bird was potbellied and sat erect like a thrush. The legs were orange the same color as the breast. The cheek patch and breast band were gray rather than black indicating it was a female. The breast band ran fully across the breast. The bird made no noise that I could hear. Although there were robin calls in the area, no robins were observed to compare size. The bird was very wary and would not come to the feeders whereas the squirrels, juncos, sparrows goldfinch had all resumed feeding in my presence sometimes as close as 5-10 feet away. I decided that I was interfering with the bird's feeding so I went back to the car to review Sibley's field guide,

The only diagnostic feature I missed was the very short tail (and in hindsight the wing bars). I went back on the other side (right) side of the house and saw the bird from about 100 feet. The angle was not the best but the tail appeared much shorter proportionately than an American Robin's.

The bird was seen by many other guests of the owner. Several birders even took photographs. If others do not submit photographs I would be glad to obtain copies and forward them. This was a life bird for me.

My conclusion is that this was an adult female Varied Thrush.

Sincerely  
Chuck Berthoud  
Hershey, PA  
Dauphin County  
[c.Berthoud@verizon.net](mailto:c.Berthoud@verizon.net)  
Mobil: 717-608-2614

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)Date of Sighting: 6 December 2003 to <sup>13</sup>December 2003

Location: HARRISBURG

County : DAUPHIN

Observer(s): Jane Webster, Will Webster, Sandy Lockerman et al

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Jane Webster, Tom Johnson, Chuck Berthoud

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

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. Stanlev	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

4/29/05