

Mr Stephen Brady
197 Bloody Spring Rd
Bernville, Pa 19506

November 14, 2008

Stephen,

Thank you for your submission of your sighting of a Varied Thrush in Berks County from January 7, 2008. The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee appreciates the time and labor involved in submitting your record.

After two rounds of voting, the sighting was unfortunately not accepted. Although the committee members felt that the bird could have been a Varied Thrush, and that the description was suggestive of one, some members thought that there were still some reasonable doubts about the identification.

Your sighting could very well be correct, unfortunately the committee has to go by the written description and some members felt that description fell a little short of a positive identification. One committee member thought that there should have been a mention of wing bars.

Thanks again for your report and please don't let this discourage you from future submissions. The committee depends on reports like yours to further the knowledge of Pennsylvania ornithological studies.

Sincerely,

Al Guarente
Chairman

Record # 666-01-2008

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

666-01-2008

SPECIES (common and scientific name) VARIED THRUSH - LXOREUS NAEVIUS
Subspecies, if known _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) MALE

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 1-7-08 TIME 4:30 PM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) UPPER TULPEHOCKEN TOWNSHIP - BERKS COUNTY

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) BLOODY SPRING ROAD - EASTERN PORTION

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name STEPHEN BRADY
Address 197 BLOODY SPRING RD
City BERNVILLE State PA ZIP 19506
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) 610-488-0245

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): NONE

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) HEMLOCK GROVE, AMONG MIX FOREST

DISTANCE TO BIRD 20 YARDS

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) CLEAR, SUN SETTING TO MY LEFT

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED SWIFT AUDUBON 8.5 x 44

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):

BIRD WAS SOMEWHAT "PLUMP" LOOKING - REWARD NOT SLENDER
BLACK BREAST BAND - SLIGHTLY LESS BOLD IN THE MIDDLE OF CHEST
LOOKED LIKE IT WAS "PUFFED UP".
TAIL WAS APPARENTLY SHORT - UNLIKE BLUE JAY.
BACK WAS BLUEISH.
HE ALMOST SEEMED TO DO A LITTLE HEAD-BOB AS HE LOOKED AT ME.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) BIRD WAS EYE LEVEL IN A hemlock tree when I flushed it to a tree that allowed me a clear view. The bird looked at me for 10-15 seconds before flying deeper into the hemlocks. It was with two other birds when flushed. A blue jay and one unidentified.

VOCALIZATIONS None

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) The black breast band and black eye band were clearly observed. The orange breast and eye brow were the next markings that I observed. The lack of anything white was also noted. Also noted was the relatively "short" tail. When compared to the blue jay it was with

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: The bird was about 200 yds from my backyard feeding station. My son happens to be a raptor biologist in Wisconsin and I have taken many birding walks with him and seen his photo of Varied Thrush. That is why I was able to immediately have a pretty good idea of what I was looking at. The bird was 20 yards away, 15 feet off the ground and sitting relatively still. It is a bird I will never forget.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES Living on the edge of a large forest, I have many past encounters with wood thrushes & veery. The distinction was easy to make.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) Although an amateur, the bird was very co-operative in sitting still and having looked at photos of a varied thrush my son took in Wisconsin, I am 100% certain of my ID.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation Memory

After observation NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Fieldguide to Birds of North America 3rd Edition

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 1-8-08

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER

Stephen Budy

Record No: ~~351~~-01-2007
666-01-2008

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round Two

Species: Varied Thrush Ixoreus naevius

Date of Sighting: 7 January 2008 to 7 January 2008

County : BERKS

Location : UPPER TULPEHOCKEN TWP.

Observer(s): Stephan Brady

Date of Submission: 2008

Submitted by: Stephan Brady

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

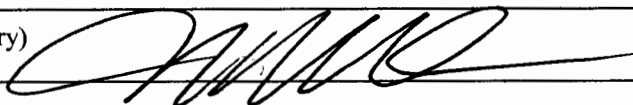
Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut			X					
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson			X					
B. Coulter			X					
C. Rutt			X					
J. Heller					X			
G. Malosh				X				
TOTALS			5	X	X			
DECISION				X				

Comments:

5/2

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

10/4/08

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Varied Thrush Ixoreus naevius

Date of Sighting: 7 January 2008 to 7 January 2008

County : BERKS

Location : UPPER TULPEHOCKEN TWP.

Observer(s): Stephan Brady

Date of Submission: 2008

Submitted by: Stephan Brady

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

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					
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson			X					
B. Coulter			X					
E. Witmer			X					
J. Heller				X	X			
G. Malosh					X			
TOTALS			5		2			
DECISION								

Comments:

5/2 - GO TO 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary)

Date: