

Submission Date	2012-11-05 06:41:31
Observer's Name	Vern Gauthier
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Phone	(717)385-9526
Observer's Address	Street Address: 111 W. Big Spring Ave. City: Newville State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17241 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Annette Mathes, Sue Strassner, Kathy Kuchwara
Species (Common Name)	Varied Thrush
Species (Scientific Name)	Ixoreus naevius
Number of individuals	1
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult Male
Observation Date and Time	11-04-2012 09:45 AM
County	Cumberland
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Boiling Springs
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Tanger Road
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.132737 -77.137802
Habitat	Wet deciduous woods with brushy undergrowth
Distance to bird	25 - 30 feet, about 15 feet off the ground perched on a branch
Viewing conditions	mostly cloudy
Optical equipment used	Vortex Viper 8x42
Description	Since the area was a single road that did not have much of a shoulder and is heavily posted with No Trespassing signs we parked on the edge of the field just before the wooded area and walked in on the road. As we walked in I heard calls of American Robins among other species. I began pishing and after briefly scanning lower down in the brush I looked up and saw

a bird perched that resembled an American Robin in size and posture though I could not make out any detail naked eye due in large part to the overcast skies and darkness of the woods. I put my bins on it expecting a Robin and to my great surprise it was a male Varied Thrush. I knew this because of the bright pumpkin orange throat and breast and black breastband along with the orange supercilium on an otherwise black head. I immediately yelled out very loud and excitedly, "I've got a Varied Thrush." Annette Mathes who saw the bird fly in was on it immediately, and in a short time the other two people in the party also were on the bird. After about another 30 seconds I stopped watching the bird to call a couple of people about the sighting. During this time the bird flew so I did not see it fly and cannot give any description about the coloration patterns of the wings. While I was contacting other birders Annette briefly saw the bird again a short way down the road. We did not relocate the bird again.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Bird was perched almost directly facing though there was enough angle that I could also see the side of the bird's head.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Black breastband on bright orange breast and orange supercilium on black head ensure that it was not an American Robin, nor an Eastern Towhee which was also heard at the location.

Discussion - anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

I have seen a Varied Thrush before having gone for the bird that was in Allentown a couple of years ago. I am also very familiar with the species with study of field guides and photos.

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

Yes, for the reasons listed above. I have no doubt and immediately knew what the bird was as soon as I saw it.

During

None

After

Sibley Field Guide which I have loaded on my phone.

Click to edit

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