

757-01-1992 Eileen Higbee
3473 Cherry Ave.
Finleyville, PA 15732

Wash. Co.

12/21-26/1992

On Dec 21, 1992 at 2 P.M. I was staring several juncos feeding under a large hemlock tree in my yard in Finleyville Washington County, which is about 15 miles south of Pittsburgh. I realized that one of the birds seemed to be the wrong color for a junco and ~~upon~~ ^{upon} closer observation with binoculars, I saw a ^{white} eye ring, brownish crown, with 2 black stripes on ~~un~~ streaked olive green back, streaked breast and pink bill and legs. It had the appearance of a thrush but was the size of a junco, a warbler-like body.

It remained for 4 or 5 minutes feeding on the ground, apparently on mixed wild bird seed, which I had scattered on the ground under the tree, about 20 feet from my window. My husband, Bill, also confirmed the identifying field marks of the bird, which we concluded was an ovenbird.

The weather was clear, the wind calm, and the temperature about 38°. The ovenbird fed quietly with the juncos before being frightened off by larger birds.

On Dec 24, ^{at 8:55 AM} the bird returned to the yard and began feeding in a sheltered ground feeder about 15 feet from the

2701
window. Since it was closer I was able to see that the crown was rustier than I had thought and the black stripes more prominent. The upper mandible appeared to be darker than the lower one. ^{+ the bill pointed.} It stayed for 3 minutes then flew into shrubbery near the house.

The temperature was 20° . There was about one inch of snow on the ground and there was a light wind.

In Dec 25 at 1:05 P.M. The overbird ~~again~~ returned to the same area briefly and again at 2 P.M. It was very active walking quickly as it pecked at the seed, ~~flapping~~ ^{pumping} its tail, revealing white under-tail coverts. At this time my son & daughter-in-law, Roger & Margaret Higley were able to observe it at close range. The temperature was 33° , there was light snow falling with some gusts of wind.

In Dec 26 at 1:55 P.M. I observed another brief appearance at the ground feeder. The weather was sunny, 28° with a light breeze. All field marks & colors were easily ~~seen~~ distinguished in the bright sunlight.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Ovenbird (Seiurus aurocapillus)**

Date of Sighting: **21 December 1992 to 26 December 1992**

Location: **FINLEYVILLE**

County: **WASHINGTON**

Observer(s): **Eileen Higbee**

Date of Submission: **1993**

Submitted by: **Eileen Higbee**

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 | | | 7 | | | | | |
| DECISION | | | X | | | | | |

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. C. Haas

Date:

2-23-94