

BIRD SIGHTING

submitted by Ralph J. Richards, Shrewsbury

Species: Fieldfare.

Date and time: April 6, 1986, from 11:20 to 11:50 A.M.

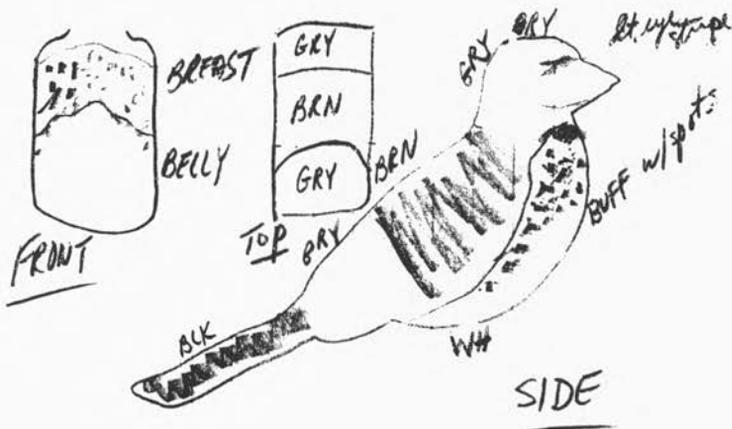
Location: Concord at Nine Acre Corner; south of Route 117, a quarter-mile from intersection on west side of Sudbury Road.

Weather conditions: cloudy with light rain and sleet; temperature in mid-30s, SE winds of 10 mph.

Equipment: Nikon 9 x 30 binoculars; Bushnell 25X telescope.

Viewing distance: approximately 200 feet.

Observer and reporter: Ralph Richards.



While standing by the road observing birds in a muddy cornfield, I noticed a different bird walking and feeding with a small flock of 25-30 robins. I observed this bird for approximately thirty minutes, writing notes of the field marks, and making a sketch of the bird to help with identification.

Description of the bird: size, shape, and behavior was like a robin; gray crown, nape, and rump; brown back; black tail; throat and breast buffy orange with black streaks; flanks heavily spotted with black; whitish belly.

When I returned home, I looked through several field guides and tentatively identified the "mystery bird" as a Fieldfare. I telephoned Mark Lynch at 2:30 P.M. and gave him the visual data I had written on the bird. He agreed that the information did indeed describe a Fieldfare but wanted to visit the site to see the bird. Mark Lynch and Sheila Carroll telephoned Alden and Nancy Clayton in Concord to meet us at the location. We arrived at the cornfield at 3:15 P.M. and looked for the bird. After half an hour, Alden Clayton found it. All observers agreed about the identification. The bird was a Fieldfare. From 4:00 to 5:00 P.M., the bird was observed by Alden and Nancy Clayton, Mark Lynch, Sheila Carroll, and other observers.