

NOTES

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A SPECIMEN OF THE VARIED THRUSH FROM FLORIDA

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On 17 November 2002 a Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) was killed when it struck a window of a home in Panama City, Bay County, Florida. Richard Ingram of the Bay County Audubon Society kindly sent the specimen to GEW, who prepared it as a study skin (Fig. 1). The specimen (GEW 5950) is of a female (ovary: 6×2 mm, minutely granular). The bird weighed 65.5 g and had no fat. Based on the shape of the tips of the primaries and outer rectrices the individual was in its hatching year (Pyle 1997).

The Varied Thrush now has been reported five times in Florida (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992; Kittleson, pers. comm.). The first report was from Palm Beach County, 23-26 October 1977 (Edscorn 1978). This individual was photographed (Tall Timbers Research Station, archives, photos 115-116) and constitutes the first verifiable record of the species from Florida. The second and third reports are from the panhandle (Loftin et al. 1991), namely Escambia County, Ft. Pickens, 8-12 November 1984 (Purrrington 1985), and Bay County, Panama City, 9-30 January 1988 (Muth 1989). The fourth report comes from Pinellas County, Honeymoon Island State Park, 1-5 November 1996 (Wamer 1997). Thus three of the five reports are from the western portion of the Florida panhandle (Escambia and Bay counties); the other two are from the Florida peninsula (Pinellas and Palm Beach counties).

Because the report we submit is based on a study skin specimen we had the opportunity to attempt to determine the probable region where the individual was hatched. Although only weakly differentiated from each other, two races of the Varied Thrush generally are recognized, *I. n. naevius* and *I. n. meruloides* (AOU 1957; George 2000). When compared with *I. n. naevius*, females of *I. n. meruloides* are paler and grayer. Based on comparison with specimens in the National Museum of Natural History RCB judged the Florida specimen represents the race *meruloides*. *I. n. naevius* breeds along the Pacific coast of North America from Alaska to California; *I. n. meruloides* (including *I. n. godfreii* of Phillips 1991) breeds farther east in the mountains from Alaska south into Idaho and Montana. Apparently all strays found east of the normal wintering range for the species are thought to be representatives of this race (AOU 1957).

Reed Bowman photographed the specimen. We thank him.

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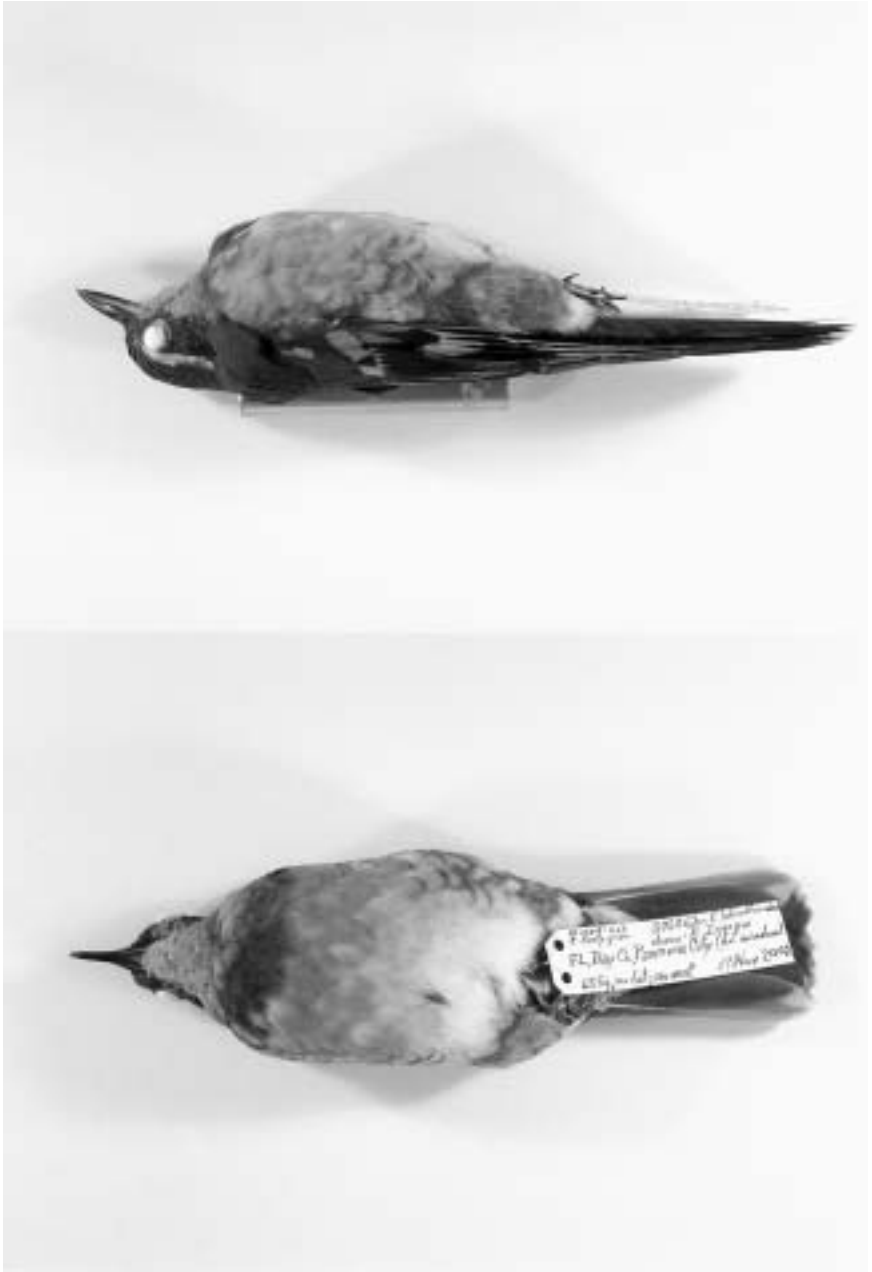


Figure 1. Lateral and ventral view of Varied Thrush study skin specimen (GEW 5950) from Panama City, Bay County, Florida.

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