

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Varied Thrush 2. Number: One
3. Location Parma, Cuyahoga County, Ohio
4. Date: Jan 16, 1981 5. Time Bird seen: 10:10 to 11:45
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): A thrush-like bird similar in shape and nearly as large as a Robin having a slaty head, back, wings, and tail, an orange stripe trailing from the eye, a dark band across the chest, orange underchin and breast fading to gray on belly, and two orange stripes and buffy area on wing was observed in various positions feeding and perching in yard.
7. Description of voice, if heard: None heard
8. Description of behavior: Robin-like in movement and action.
9. Habitat - general: Suburban residential area - (Mrs. Pender residence)  
specific: Back yard with trees, grass area, fence rows - snow on ground
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
Pattern unique - distinct from other thrushes
11. Distance (how measured)? 20 to 50 feet - camera focus 12. Optical equipment:
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Variable sun and overcast - sun to right near side when out.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: California several times; Ohio 2 yrs ago in Mentor, 1 year ago at Findley.
15. Other observers: Nancy Klamm; Harold and Lois Wallin; Mrs. Pender
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Mrs. Pender, Harold & Lois Wallin
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
Several books at hand at this residence.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 10 min.

William A. Klamm Address: 2140 Lewis Dr.  
Signature

Date: 1-16-81 City, State: Wickliffe, Ohio 44107

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species GYRFALCON 2. Number: 1 immature

3. Location CRANE CREEK

4. Date: JANUARY 31, 1981 5. Time Bird seen: <sup>approx.</sup> 10:40 to 10:45

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

THE BIRD WAS RED-TAILED HAWK SIZE. The wings were fairly wide at the base. The wingtips were fairly rounded. The tail was quite long. The bill was a blackish color. The upperparts were gray and the underparts were a slightly lighter shade due to the heavy streaking below. UPON closer examination the overall color was gray with a brownish tinge to the feathers. The undersides of the wing were just about as dark as the above sides.

7. Description of voice, if heard:

none

8. Description of behavior:

The head had a streak through the eye but it was indistinct. The eye was dark. The entire bird had a robust shape.

9. Habitat - general: MARSH

specific: BIRD WAS FLYING FROM A ~~POST~~ STUMP OUT IN THE MARSH TO A MUSKRAT HOUSE

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

Peregrine Falcon : smaller, distinct eye mark, slimmer build, pointed wing tips, narrower wings

11. Distance (how measured)?

150 yards - 225 yards - estimate

12. Optical equipment:

20X SCOPE

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

MOSTLY SUNNY - SUN WAS TO MY RIGHT, LIGHT WAS VERY GOOD

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

HAVE SEEN THE GYRFALCON ONCE BEFORE

15. Other observers:

none

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

The bird was first seen by Mark Shield Castle but he could not ID. IT

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none were used

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? Same day

Signature

John Pygall

Address: 2966 Wener Ct

Date: 1-31-81

City, State: LORAIN Ohio

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species GANNET 2. Number: 1 immature
3. Location Bayshore Power Plant, Oregon, Ohio
4. Date: Dec. 13, 1980 5. Time Bird seen: 9:00 am to 9:01 am
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): Very long forebody, tapering to a point, rear of body much shorter. Large size (much larger than Herring gulls that were chasing it). Wings long and narrow. Plumage basically dark with light patches at base of tail. Wings seemed to have some light splotches dorsally.
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: Flying, chased by Herring gulls. Very distinctive flight, much like a large shearwater. Rather stiff winged, a few flaps, then a quick soar.
9. Habitat - general: Lake Erie  
specific: power plant outflow
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: Black backed gulls, herring gulls eliminated by body shape, wings shape, flight style, and size.
11. Distance (how measured)? 100-300 meters; eye balled 12. Optical equipment: 7x50 binocs
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): overcast, sun in south bird in north light was quite poor
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen adult Gannets on the East Coast.
15. Other observers: Eric Durbin
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: no one to my knowledge
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Peterson's Eastern + European guides. Did not influence description
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 11 hours
- Signature Thomas R. Kemp Address: 7327 Jefferson Rd.
- Date: 12/13/80 City, State: Whitehouse Ohio 43571

over, please, for additional comments

I first saw the bird being chased by Herring gulls and the first thing I said to Eric was, "It's shaped like a booby!" We watched the bird as it flew away (for not more than 20 seconds) and noted its pointed body shape (body part in front of wings longer than rear end), extremely long narrow wings, unusual flight style, and light patch at base of tail, with possibly some light areas on the upper wing surface. We were now thinking Gannet but wanted to consider other possibilities. All of the large gulls were quickly eliminated by the above characteristics. A cormorant was considered but the wing shape, body shape, and flight style weren't right. Therefore, although we did not have a long and unobstructed look at it and the light was poor, we feel the above characteristics add up to gannet, especially considering the species even remotely similar to it.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: THIS BIRD WAS NOT A LAKE ERIE SPECIES. IT WAS SIMILAR IN BODY STRUCTURE TO A SHEARWATER, THE ONLY ATLANTIC BIRDS I'M PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH. AN EXAMINATION OF THE FIELD GUIDES & THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION CAUSES ME TO AGREE WITH TOM'S IDENTIFICATION. ERIC DURBIN

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species HARRIS' SPARROW 2. Number: 1
3. Location FEEDER AT FINDLEY ST. PARK, LARAIN, CO.
4. Date: 1/9/81. ALSO 1/13/81 5. Time Bird seen: 1:15 to 1:20
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):  
ABOUT 1" LONGER THAN WHITE-THROATS WHICH WERE ALSO AT FEEDER. SPARROW SHAPED, DARK CROWN, WHITE THROAT AND UNDER PARTS. BLACK BLOTCHED BIB RESEMBLING NECLACE OF CANADA WARBLER, WELL PRONOUNCED WHITE WINGBARS. PINK SPARROW TYPE BILL. FEET NOT NOTED.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD.
8. Description of behavior: STAYED IN LOW BRUSH, EXCEPT FOR 4 SHORT VISITS TO THE FEEDER.
9. Habitat - general: EDGE OF WOODS, MATURE TREES AS WELL AS UNDERBRUSH.  
 specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
NO SIMILAR APPEARING SPECIES TO MY KNOWLEDGE.
11. Distance (how measured)? 100 FT. EST. 12. Optical equipment: 8X40 BINOCULARS
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): OVERCAST
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: NONE
15. Other observers: DEAN THOMPSON
16. Did the others agree with your identification? YES
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: ~~NONE~~ JOHN POGACNIC (SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE)
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
I CHECKED SPARROWS IN "BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA" BY ROBBINS, BRUNN, AND ZIM, ALSO PETERSONS "FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS", BEFORE DECIDING THE BIRD DIDN'T FIT THE DESCRIPTION OF ANYTHING EXCEPT HARRIS' SPARROW.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? I MADE NOTES IMMEDIATELY.
- Arden D. Thompson Address: 530 Birch Hill Dr.  
 Signature
- Date: 1/9/81 City, State: Lorain, Ohio 44035

Please see reverse side for birds that should be documented  
 ON 1/12/81 JOHN POGACNIC WENT WITH US AND OBSERVED WHAT WAS  
 PROBABLY THE SAME BIRD. HE USED A 20X SPOTTING SCOPE.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species N. Hybrid, Duck 2. Number: One
3. Location Wooded Wetlands Park, Fairfield County, Ohio
4. Date: January 6, 1981 5. Time Bird seen: 2:40 P.M. to 3:20 P.M.
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):  
*bird slightly smaller than American Wigeon  
 Head appeared dark green at times, brown-black at other times.  
 bill dark blue. Long dark grey. Underparts & breast dark brownish-orange with  
 black speckling except no speckling on upper breast.  
 back brownish-black. Black tail with white patch (small) in front of tail.  
 I saw both on specimen which also appeared blue and grey. In flight showed a white  
 wing patch like that in a Gadwall*
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard.
8. Description of behavior: sleeping, preening, <sup>floating</sup> swimming, feeding (on land).
9. Habitat - general: Wetlands Park - fields & forests  
 specific: small pond, part of which is kept free of ice by an aerator.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

11. Distance (how measured)? 25'-35' at least - estimated 12. Optical equipment: 8x40  
 Binoscope,  
 20# spotting  
 scope.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
Cloudy sky, sun to right & behind me, I was looking east.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
15. Other observers: Sue & Phillip
16. Did the others agree with your identification? not necessarily because I didn't  
 really identify it.
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Bruce Terjesen identified it as a  
 possible hybrid of the American Wigeon hybrid
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
None  
*I thought it might have some  
 Gadwall and Mallard genes also  
 but I agree with Bruce that it must resemble the American Wigeon  
 and American Wigeon*
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? During the night while  
 writing by the side of the pond in the home at that night.
- Address: 6505 Lincoln Ave.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: Jan 6, 1981 City, State: Lima, Ohio 43062

*I saw the bird again on Feb. 13 - the white patch before the tail appeared larger than on Jan. 6 and the head was greener.*

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species hoar redpoll 2. Number: one  
 MAP: U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 1:24000, SHREVE QUAD. SEC. 33; NW-160 acres; along north edge of this plot. About 2:15 PM.  
 3. Location 5 West of elevation 1014 at bend of CR 149 (ETRIA ROAD)

4. Date: 19 Feb. 1981 5. Time Bird seen: about 4 PM to 4:30 PM

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Total plumage closely resembled common redpoll, in other words I was not aware of an overall frosty appearance depicted by <sup>BIRDS OF CANADA</sup> Crosby - but no common redpolls were present for comparison. Bill size and under tail coverts not observed. As this redpoll perched with its back toward me at only slightly above eye level for at least 5 minutes there is no doubt that its snow white, unmarked rump was diagnostic; strongly contrasting with the streaked back plumage. This redpoll was unwary even lethargic and observation was easy...

7. Description of voice, if heard: the redpoll was silent.

8. Description of behavior: First flushed from long grass at edge of small marsh. Companions were a few song sparrows, tree sparrows and a Swamp Sparrow.

9. Habitat - general: Small marsh where a tree lined brook descended slope to the flat valley floor.  
 specific: few acres of hardwood saplings to 30 feet tall edging a grassy marsh.  
The redpoll entered & perched in the saplings only shifting position a few feet at flight.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

Common redpoll - as described above. Here's the original quote from my field note book written 2 hours after the observation: "Seeing a light-phase rough-legged hawk standing on a muskrat lodge and a ♀ Circus e. preening nearby on the marsh edge, I walked down a field edge into a thicket of saplings which fans out to a (small) marsh grass area at the edge of the (wide) Muddy Fork (MICHIGAN RIVER) valley. A (small) number of sparrows and 2 downy woodpeckers were in the thicket. As I checked the sparrows through the 7x binoculars I saw"

11. Distance (how measured)? estimated; 20 to 30 feet 12. Optical equipment: 7x35 Bushnell side Binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): heavy overcast, altho the bird was eastward of my position.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: none; have observed common redpoll infrequently

15. Other observers: none

16. Did the others agree with your identification? ---

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: ---

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

TROUTMAN, M. B. and M. A. Annotated List of the BIRDS OF OHIO  
 PETERSON, R. Field Guide to Western Birds. GODFREY, W. E. BIRDS OF CANADA  
 CAMPBELL, LOU. BIRDS OF THE TOLEDO AREA  
 FORBUSH, E. H. BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS VOL III  
 BAILEY, A. M. and R. J. MEDBACH, BIRDS OF COLORADO

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 hours.

Signature James Bruce Address: 565 Spring St.

Date: 4 April 1981 City, State: Wooster, Oh.

Please see reverse side for birds that should be documented

(diary quote cont'd.); a redpoll at about 120 feet (estimated). It dropped down into the long grass and I set aside my telescope and stalked it. (The last redpoll I had seen was in Jan. 1978) Half expecting to find a small flock (of redpolls) I noticed only a few tree sparrows. Directly up flew Acanthis perching a few feet above the ground with a dark tree trunk as back ground. The distance between me and the redpoll was now half that at which I first saw it. Slowly I approached to about 40 feet while the bird shifted position slightly. [I reached <sup>eventually</sup> a point about 20' distant without disturbing the redpoll at all]. I was not impressed with [excessively] pale feathering on the upper parts ... but as it perched back toward me I saw a large, white patch covering the rump <sup>and lower back</sup> devoid of any streaking. The breast was not conspicuously rosy. The bird was most inactive, unwarly, and was in a marsh edge habitat similar to the site described by Lawrence Hicks where he collected his Ohio specimen in 1934 - near Lake Erie. (Lucas County). After reference to literature to I have no reservation that this lone bird was a hoary redpoll.

Already this ~~best~~ record has met with outright skepticism, as I <sup>had</sup> predicted, and, of course, I am prepared for a continuation of this attitude as long as this account is read by bird watchers or ornithologists. My first reaction was to tell no one; but I finally confided in my first cousin Bob who has observed hoary redpolls on their Abakten nesting grounds. He accepted the sighting without question. Unfortunately I had no gun, <sup>mist</sup> net, nor camera with me that day! This was my first hoary redpoll in 54 years watching in the field... (The ~~redpoll~~ redpoll had vanished when I returned to search 2 days later).

## Documentation of Nashville Warbler

Vic Fazio

On December 1, 1980, while walking along a creek in the Shaker Lakes park area in Shaker Heights, I was startled by a streak of bright yellow across my path. The small bird alighted upon some weedy stalks in a small field. Viewing the olive back, I at first thought I had another kinglet. Then the bird faced me and proceeded to flit and hover amongst the weeds. Immediately I recognized the bird to be a Nashville Warbler (Vermivora ruficapilla). The underparts from vent to chin were a distinct bright yellow. The head region including the nape was dull, almost ash-gray in colour. The back and rump were a dull olive similar to a ruby-crowned kinglet (Regulus calendula), not as bright as a golden-crowned kinglet (Regulus satrapa). Both these species were observed that day. No wingbars were evident. The bird then recrossed the stream and appeared to glean something off a tree trunk in the fashion of a Black and White Warbler. The bird was observed at about 11:30am on a cloudy day. Although this is certainly one of very few winter records for the state (the only one I am familiar with), I am not too surprised that such a bird that is regularly seen in early November, occurred at this time.







