

WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species: Number: (leave blank)
Location: Date: Time:
Bird Seen: To: Age/Sex:

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

Estimated to be robin size or a little larger but slimmer. Posture robin-like.

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

Bright orange breast, fading to white down below belly. Steel blue above. Wings gray but with orange wing bars and orange blotches. Dark grey-black U-shaped necklace on breast. Narrow orange eyebrow extending to neck, bordered above and below with black. Bill dark, straight.

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

I can't be sure I heard any vocalizations.

Description of behavior:

Moved quietly between lower tree branches. Landed so it was partially obstructed, but still visible if I moved a little. Seemed aware of me, but not very skittish. It perched farther away and I moved forward for a better view. Then it flew out of view across a stream into nearby woods.

45 minutes later (on my way back) in the same area, I saw it again and got better looks and refined my notes. I was texting my birding pal for ideas about what it was. He kept telling me to get a picture but I only had a phone camera, and it was in thick twigs. I thought my time was better spent noting the field marks and never attempted a photo

Habitat: (General and Specific)

This area of the bike trail is paved, but not used much. South Haddix Run is on one side, with low floodable flats, brush and small trees extending 50-100 yards to Shavers Fork River. On other side is a hill going up to Rt. 219. The Thrush was right next to the trail in an area with a small mowed demonstration American Chestnut plantation and a reservoir about 20 feet uphill maintained by Kingsford Charcoal Company.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

I was about 15-20 feet away, and looking through my Vortex 8x42 binoculars. The weather was overcast, windy and warm. 65-70 degrees.

Previous experience with this species:

None

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

I am familiar with the local Thrushes. I saw quite a few Hermit Thrushes this winter. I did not recognize this bird as a thrush. I wondered if it was an Oriole I wasn't familiar with because the orange color was so brilliant. I never got a good look at the bill, but noticed it was dark colored and seemed straight. (My notes say "long and sharp," but I didn't see it that well.)

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

Nobody else.

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

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

As I was walking back to my car I talked to Casey Rucker. I described the field marks and asked what it could be. He thought a bit and said, "You didn't see a Varied Thrush, did you?" I said I wasn't familiar but would check when hung up. I intended to go home and make sketches first. But before I got home I pulled over to look up Varied Thrush on my phone. It was nmistakeable that it was the bird I saw. Just then, Casey called me back to agree.

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Immediately. I include a transcript of my contemporaneous texts to and from Steve Kimbrell, my birding pal who begged me to get a picture. This will come in a separate email.

Name:

Mimi Kibler

Address:

[REDACTED]

Date:

03/12/2022

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee
Attn: Wil Hershberger
170 Stallion Ct.
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Or E-mail to:
wilhershberger@mac.com

Please use the space below to add any appropriate details you feel were missing from the above form or to expand on any answers whose allotted space was insufficient for a complete response:

Here is an exact transcript of contemporaneous texts between me and my birding pal Steve Kimbrell:
Mimi Kibler

MK, 03-07-2022:

3-8-22 10:15 am

Bird in Porterwood

Steel blue on back

Orange patches on wings

Orange entirely breast and belly.

Brighter on belly than breast

Heavy black eye brow, from bill to neck

Grey-black necklace band.

Robin size or a little larger

Landed in shrubs and lower tree branches

SK 03/07/2022 10:36 am

Hope you can get a photo. Today is the 7th

MK 03/07/2022 10:38 am

No photo. It already left. Any possibilities?

MK 03/07/2022 10:46 am

It's back

SK 03/07/2022 10:50 am

Size, Bill shape, Tail length, where exactly are color patches

MK 03/07/2022 10:53 am

Update

Bird in Porterwood:

Steel blue on back

Orange patcheslike wingbars but blotchy on wings

Orange entirely on breast, fading to white down below belly.

Narrow orange eye brow stripe with heavy black above and below it.

Grey-black necklace band.

Long sharp straight bill, dark.

Robin size or a little larger

Landed in shrubs and lower tree branches

It's gone again

SK 03/07/2022 10:59am

Photo no matter how good. When it is gone, draw picture-not for art, for memory

MK 03/08/2022

Will. No photo. Darn