

6 - 1986

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Ovenbird

Scientific Name: *Seiurus aurocapillus*

Date: 26 May 1986 Time: 1 PM - 3 PM

Length of time observed: On + off for 2 hrs
total observation about 30 min.

Number: 1 Age: Adult

Sex:

Location: Beryl, Iron County

Lat/long:

Elevation:

Distance to bird: Within 10 feet

Light conditions: Sunny overhead

Optical equipment: 7x35 binocular

bird was in the shade

Weather: calm, sunny

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Crown was orangish bordered by dark stripes
it was narrow, broadening to wider on top of
head behind the eye then narrowing onto nape.
The dark lines on nape became more diffuse

White eye ring

Upper parts

Olive-brown

[some fieldguides say they are
brown but bird had definite
olive tones to upper parts.
some fieldguides give this]

legs - pink

breast and flanks heavily streaked with dark elongated spots
(more elongated on flanks)
otherwise white underparts

belly/vent/under tail coverts/throat white

throat bordered by dark line

As the bird walked the tail was held slightly above the wings

bill warbler like - long + thin / base and most of lower mandible
pink / upper mandible mostly dark

bird walked rather than hopped.

Voice or call notes: Three or Four times the bird
was seen ^{and heard} giving it's TEACHER TEACHER TEACHER
song.

Behavior: The bird spent most of the time walking on ground, pecking. It liked to walk up and down small branches littering the ground. Occasionally it would fly up to a limb (always within 6 feet of the ground) and walk up and down the limb. Occasionally it would just sit on the limb and rest. It slowly worked its way down a long line of trees over a 2 hr. period.

Habitat: Small isolated ranch in the Great Basin. It was in a double line of trees that lined a driveway to the ranch. Adjacent were irrigated fields. The bird remained in the shady weedy area.

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:

The orangish crown bordered with dark, eyering and boldly streaked underparts. The song was absolutely conclusive.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

There are no similar species

What experience have you had with this and similar species: I have spent two vacations in Minnesota chasing the ovenbird. I am VERY FAMILIAR with its song. On the last day of the 2nd vacation I saw one for 15 seconds.

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

None was really needed, I spend 2 vacations obsessed with this bird

Significance of record in this area or the state:

First latibong 7th State record

Additional material (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording in available):

Observer: Ella Sorensen

Signature: Ella Sorensen

Address: 3868 Marsha Dr
West Valley City, UT

Other observers who independently identified this bird: Richard Sorensen
who first observed and identified the bird

Date prepared: June 3 1986 (From notes taken immediately after before
looking at field guides)

Return this form to: Utah Ornithological Society
C/O Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120