

9c-1997

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Eastern Bluebird

Scientific Name: *Sialia sialis*

Date: Dec. 20, 1997

Time: ~ 2:45 PM

Length of time observed: 15-20 minutes

Number: one

Age: ? Dunn (1981)

Sex: female

Location: NORTHEAST

SAYS can't safely

LOGAN near

age for birds

LUNDSTROM Park

Lat/long: 3

Elevation (if known): ~ 4800 feet

Distance to bird: 25-35 feet

Light conditions: excellent, sunny, light shade

Optical equipment: Zeiss 10x40 binoculars

Weather: sunny, clear and cold ~ 20°; no wind

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

Size was between Robin and House Finch. Close to Fox Sparrow or Cedar Waxwing. The shape was trim, relatively long-tailed, moderately short bill. Wings shorter than tail.

There was a whitish eye ring, slightly thickened behind eye. Colors were quite saturated. The head and back was blue-gray. The wings and tail were bright blue, but duller than a male. The wings had some brown tones. The breast was chestnut brown which extended to base of bill and over shoulders. A male would have been somewhat darker and richer in color here. The belly, flanks and undertail coverts were pure white. The bill appeared all black. Posture quite upright.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

none

Behavior: perched. NOT actively feeding when I watched

Habitat:

Trees along canal in SUG Division

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

ONLY OTHER SPECIES would have been western bluebird female,
which has gray throat and gray belly and under tail coverts.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I grew up in southern Michigan next to an old apple orchard with nesting
Eastern Bluebirds. Later I worked in northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan
where they were common in fire-killed trees.

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

JON DUNN. 1981. The identification of female Bluebirds. Birding 13(1): 4-11.
ROBERT T. PETERSON. 1990. A Field Guide to Western Birds
JON DUNN et al. 1987. Field Guide to Birds of North America.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

said to be third state record

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

3 PHOTOS ATTACHED. Taken with Canon A-1 camera and
Tokina 200 mm lens. FUJI color 200 film

Description from notes taken at time of sighting _____ notes made later _____ from memory X

Observer: Lawrence A. Ryel

Signature: *Lawrence A. Ryel*

Address: 882 North 300 East
Logan, UT 84321

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Ronald Ryel
Keith Archibald
Robert Atwood
and several others

Date prepared:

Jan. 12, 1998

Return this form to:

Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
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and photos