

General Field Notes

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Varied Thrush photographed at Edisto Beach, Colleton Co., South Carolina—A First State Record.

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In the morning and again at dusk of 6 October 1993, Frank and Carol Bremer observed an adult male Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) in their yard at 622 Magnolia Court, Edisto Beach, Colleton Co., South Carolina. They again saw the bird in the afternoon of 10 October, at which time Frank Bremer was able to take a recognizable photo. Subsequent attempts by the Bremers and Forsythe to relocate the thrush were unsuccessful. The bird was observed in the Bremer's yard which is located in a subdivision adjacent to a golf course. The vegetation is maritime forest of Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*), Cabbage Palmetto (*Sabal palmetto*), and Bull Bay (*Magnolia grandiflora*) situated on sand dunes.

This is the first documented record of Varied Thrush for South Carolina (Worthington 1995). The details about a second bird seen on the 1993 Spartanburg SC Christmas Bird Count have recently been submitted to the SC Bird Records Committee, and is now under review (Worthington 1995). The Varied Thrush is a casual winter straggler from northwestern North America with many recent winter records usually at feeders from maritime Canada to the southeastern United States

(American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Peterson 1980).

LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American Birds. 6th ed., Allen Press, Lawrence, KS.
- Peterson, R. T. A field guide to the birds. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA. 4th ed.
- Worthington, P. L., Chair. 1995. Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee 1994. Chat 59(3):89-92.

Band-tailed Pigeon Observed in Georgetown, South Carolina

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On 16 August 1991, I observed a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) in the Maryville section of Georgetown, Georgetown Co., South Carolina. The sighting took place in an overgrown dredge disposal site just N of Martin Street adjacent to the Place-by-the-Bay apartment complex. This area is covered with dense grasses and brush (mostly 2-4 m tall) with clusters of Loblolly Pines (*Pinus taeda*), mulberry (*Morus* sp.) China berry (*Melia azedarach*), and other trees typical of waste places. There is a dirt road that crosses the area, which I frequently use for bird watching.

At approximately 0730 hr EDT, while I was walking through a China berry grove near the entrance to the area, I spotted a large bird perched among some dead branches about 15 m above and in front of me. There was a thin overcast, so I was looking through 10x40 binoculars at the bird in moderately good light against a light gray sky. I immediately recognized it as a Band-tailed Pigeon, a species I became familiar with while living in California from 1979-1982. The size, shape and general impression of this bird was of a pigeon slightly larger than a Rock Dove (*Columba livia*). I could easily see the narrow white crescent on the bird's nape, its square tail with a dark base and broad light gray band at the end, and its gray rump. After much less than one minute, the bird became disturbed by my presence and flew off northwards through the China berry grove towards an overgrown drainage canal. I continued exploring the area hoping for another look at this bird.

At 0800 hr, I found the bird again, perched in virtually the same spot it had used earlier. By this time, the sun had come out and was behind me over my left shoulder. The bird was perched in direct sunlight. As I was partially screened by intervening vegetation, I was able to approach to within 10 m of the pigeon and view it leisurely in excellent light for several minutes. I took note of as many details of the bird's appearance as I could, then wrote them down immediately