

male with her. He was beautifully feathered and not physically handicapped in any way. They stayed all winter, feeding alternately, until January. Then, a strange thing happened. Suddenly, one day, the female oriole attacked the male, pinning him to the ground and pecking him so savagely that I almost intervened. Finally, he flew off with the female chasing. I never saw him again. The female came daily after that and left as before in early spring.

Alice Vee Sweeny, 25 Meadow Lane, Syosset

Varied Thrush at Bellport, Long Island: On December 19, 1963 Dr. Clarke Williams, an associate of mine at Brookhaven National Laboratory, reported to me an unusual bird that had come to his feeder for several mornings past. Next morning I went to his home in Bellport, on the south shore of Long Island, at about 7:30 A.M., and within a few minutes the bird arrived and began feeding. It was a Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*); it appeared to be a young bird, as the dark edges of the lower flank feathers were very pronounced, and the breast band somewhat blurred at the edges instead of being sharply defined. It was obviously in excellent condition and fed well; on all occasions I watched it during its appearances at the Williams' home it appeared to prefer cracked corn to the other mixed seeds that were scattered around. It did not go to any of the elevated feeders but remained on the ground. It did not associate with any other birds, but was not bothered by them.

At this time of year, the weather was generally bad, with northerly winds, temperatures remaining below the twenties, and some light to moderate snowfalls. Since, however, the Williams' house faces to the south, the thrush was able to feed in a relatively sheltered area, and after a leisurely feeding, generally lasting ten-fifteen minutes, it would often sun itself for a while in the lee of a small evergreen, or fly off to rest in one of the pitch pines bordering the garden.

The bird continued to come regularly to this location to feed many times almost every day, in spite of snowstorms and other adverse conditions, until January 17, 1964, when it disappeared quite abruptly. Since it had survived the worst snowstorm to date on January 13, its disappearance might be blamed on one of the many cats prowling in this neighborhood.

During the month that it frequented the Williams' home, a number of ornithologists were privileged to observe this rare visitant, thanks to the generosity and interest of Dr. and Mrs. Williams.

Dennis Puleston, Brookhaven

Ed. note: See *Kingbird* 9:22 for an account of this species at Watertown in 1958 and a summary of previous reports.

Varied Thrush at Orient, Long Island: On April 17, 1964, a Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*, was recorded in Orient, Long Island walking in a secluded section of a yard at a distance of fifteen to twenty-five feet from the observer, before six A.M. In this area where the bird was searching for food, bird food had been spread on the ground daily since December. The bird was under observation at this close range for three hours. The dark band on the breast was prominent. While on the ground the bird was very robin-like in its behavior. In time the bird crossed a driveway and wandered onto the freshly plowed ground of a newly planted potato field.

A search through the literature indicates that along the eastern seaboard practically all of the few records for this accidental species from the north-west have been in the autumn or early winter. The winter of 1963-1964 was comparably mild with no extremely cold temperatures or deep snow-cover on the ground.

This thrush showed up on the first morning in April on which any noticeable movement occurred with the immediate spring species in 1964. It definitely had not wintered in Orient.

Roy Latham, Orient, Long Island

Ed. note: Bellfort is more than thirty miles from Orient, where the preceeding record was obtained.