

By LeRoy Wilcox

A Varied Thrush appeared on 5 January 1969 at South Haven, Long Island, on the Carmans River - a Suffolk County park. When I first saw it on 6 January, it was feeding in and around a wire enclosure containing some Pekin ducks, apparently picking up scraps from the grain that was fed to the ducks. On the afternoon of January 9th, I started baiting the area with chick scratch grains about 50 feet from the pen, hoping the thrush would locate the feed. The next morning, the grains had all been cleaned up and it appeared that the thrush had located it. I proceeded to set up three trip-doorstep traps in the area where I had scattered the grain, most of the feed inside the traps with some sprinkled around the outside of the traps. This was at 10 A.M. Two Song Sparrows and four White throated Sparrows were with the thrush. They fed around the traps for a few minutes and left. They reappeared about every 30 minutes to feed but it was not until 2.30 P.M. that the thrush finally ventured into one of the traps. Fortunately I could watch the entire operation from my car.

It was an adult male, weighed 92.2 grams with a wing of 129mm and a tail of 89mm. Band No. 742-36353 was placed on its leg. The bird was photographed in color and then released. I was somewhat concerned if the bird would leave after handling. It was again seen in the area on January 11, 12, 17 and last seen on January 26th.

This was the second Varied Thrush I had seen; the first one was seen by many observers at Bellport, L.I., from December 16 thru 31, 1963, about four miles west of South Haven. Up to that time only three others had been seen on Long Island, one at Islip in the fall of 1874; an adult male on December 20, 1889 at Port Jefferson and one record on November 19, 1905 at Miller Place. Another one, an unbanded male, appeared at two feeding stations in October 1969 at Westhampton, one half mile east of my home and has been there all winter up until now (that was February 12, 1970. Ed)



Oceanic Duck Farm, Spoonk, L.I., N.Y.