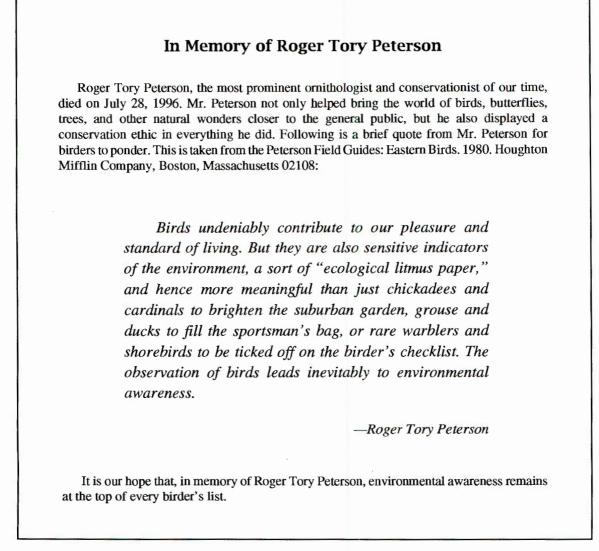
In late December, I called Hall to ask if I could see the bird. On 14 Jan. 1996, Al Stokie, Rick Siebert, Bob Erickson, Jeff Sanders, Barb Meding, and I drove to the Halls and caught Tom Hall in his driveway. While talking to him, we saw the thrush in a large tree next to his house. This beautifully colored male had a rich, wide buff orange stripe above its eye and rectangular-like buff/orange marks from the tertials to the primaries. Its smooth, pumpkin-colored breast featured a dark band. When the bird turned, we observed an ice-blue back.

This western thrush is typically associated with coniferous trees and berry bushes, and also frequents feeders. Bohlen (1989) said that "even though their principal range is the West Coast of North America, they probably occur every winter in Illinois in small numbers." Most records are from northern Illinois between 21 Nov. and 1 May. The McHenry County Varied Thrush was last seen on 22 April 1996.

Literature Cited

Bohlen. H. D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. University of Indiana Press. Bloomington, IN.

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Meadowlark