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VARIED THRUSH IN SASKATOON

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Flocks of robins were mobbing the neighbour's Mountain Ash as the migrating birds feasted on overripened fruit. Early frosts and overripe fruit have strange effects on feeding birds; as a result 22 September 1984 was a memorable day!

About two days earlier a Swainson's Thrush had flown into our den window. "Another thrush" were my thoughts upon hearing a thud at the den window. A thrush was correct, but a Varied Thrush was the surprise. It didn't recover in the back yard, as the Swainson's Thrush had, but in the dark of a cardboard box in the den.

I telephoned Dr. Houston to enquire about banding a Varied Thrush. His response was very positive but skeptical about the thrush's recovery. Recover it did! A few minutes after Dr. Houston arrived, the thrush began flying around the den. The adult male Varied Thrush was photographed, banded and released.

Varied Thrushes have been reported several times in the *Blue Jay* but observing one close at hand and photographing a lifer is something else.

Why was Dr. Houston interested in banding the Varied Thrush? It was his two hundredth species banded. Congratulations!!



C. Stuart Houston with 200th species banded R. Jensen