
NOTES AND LETTERS

VARIED THRUSH AT WALDHEIM

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Around the 1st of December 1998 a Varied Thrush showed up on Vicki Gossen's yard in Waldheim SK. (60km N of Saskatoon). At first it was skittish and would fly away with any movement in the house, cars driving by etc. After getting used to it's new surroundings it is easily observed hanging out with sparrows and eating black oil sunflower seeds on the ground. When the temperature dropped to -30 Vicki decided to try to up the Varied Thrush's calorie intake. She put a fruit and nut

suet cake on the ground and the bird pecks at it readily. It is not clear if it is eating the fruit, nuts or suet.

When the Hairy Woodpecker decides to eat from the suet cake on the ground instead of his own hanging from the tree, the thrush dive-bombs him and scares him off. After eating its fill the Thrush suns itself on the ground against the tree out of the wind or in the tree's branches. It was not seen again after 3 Jan 1999.



Varied Thrush

Barb Epp