

TO: Oregon Bird Records Committee

## **Dusky Thrush**

Metzger area of Tigard, Washington County

February 26 - March 8, 2019,

February 26th — I first spotted this bird in our back yard around 11:00 AM. There was also a small group of American Robins in the yard at the same time, but this bird tended to stay toward the edges of the group. It didn't forage on the grass with the robins, exactly, but tended to favor the more bare ground where it tossed leaves. It seemed to be a tad smaller or maybe slimmer than the robins. With 20+ years of observing birds in our yard, it was immediately apparent that it was a species I had not seen before. The moment it turned sideways, it stuck me as a Thrush. It remained in the yard for close to an hour and I was able to get some long-distance photos with a Canon G9 12.1 mega pixels. Unfortunately the distance taxed the abilities of the camera and I ended up with only blurry shots that didn't show field marks. My online research at the end of that session brought me to conclude it was a Dusky Thrush.

February 27th — The bird reappeared the next day in our neighbor's yard, once again in the company of robins. I was able to observe it with binoculars for close to 15 minutes before it flew away. At the end of this contact I was convinced that it was in fact a Dusky Thrush. I did not spot the bird again for 8 days even though I watched my back yard and walked the neighborhood 2 times a day.

March 8th — It showed again in our yard (with Robins) at around 3:00 PM. While it stayed for only a short time, I was able to get 3 photos (attached) again with the Canon G9 , at least one of which shows enough definition to facilitate an identification as a female Dusky Thrush: characteristic thrush shape with ground foraging behavior, walked like a robin, dark above but base color white below with dark spots covering the breast and most of the flanks, dark face mask roughly the same color as the back surrounded by distinctive whitish stripes above and below, lighter brown feathers covering the wings. The photos show what I saw.

I photographed the bird only in my back yard where there is no view from the street or sidewalk. It did not seem to have a regular schedule of any kind. I have not seen the bird since March 8th. Photos were taken through the window glass.

Steve deMoulin, SW Portland

March 17, 2019



Photos Steve deMoulin 2019