

Birds are amazing creatures. Some make beautiful music; we keep some for pets while others give us gifts at inopportune times. Most people can agree that birds do in fact make this world a better place to live in.

No one country can claim ownership to these song birds as they breed on the western North America from Alaska to northern California.

No one really knows how or why but these fine female feathered birds actually showed up in Great Britain in 1982, thousands of miles away from its breeding area. When it comes to the female species, they prefer to lay their eggs in dense, coniferous forests. Usually two to five eggs at a time will do just fine in a nest. They mainly feeds near the ground, foraging for invertebrates, but also eats berries and some seeds.

The male Varied Thrush is a striking bird, and is virtually unmistakable. It is smaller than an American Robin and dark blue-gray above. It has bright orange wing bars, throat, lateral head stripe and under parts. There is a black breast band and facemask. The song is eerie and melancholic.

Female and juvenile birds are brown-er above and the orange is more subdued. The breast band and facemask are a blotchy brown.

Some interesting facts on the Varied Thrush include: they defend and maintain small feeding territories around bird feeders.



They are aggressive and dominate many other feeder bird species.

There is an extremely rare variant of this species in which all the orange in the plumage is replaced by white.

The best clue to this bird's presence is usually its song, which often seems to emanate from the forest itself, and is generally unhelpful to observers wishing to locate the singer.

They don't make great gaming birds. They are not known as a meaty bird and you would have to eat a lot of them for even a snack.

A group of thrushes are collectively known as a hermitage and a mutation of thrushes.

Western Bluebird, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Aztec Thrush, Rufous-backed Robin, Eyebrowed Thrush, Dusky Thrush and the White-rumped Shama.

The next time birds leave you gifts on your vehicle or body parts, try to imagine a world without them. It would be a very dull, less musical world for sure.

## The Varied Thrush

