

Birds of Quiet Water, part II



Becky Matushara from El Sobrante, California

A beautiful bird that you may have seen at Quiet Water is the Varied Thrush, a strikingly marked cousin of the robin. During the winter there are huge squabbling flocks of them when the Alaskans come to winter over in Oregon. They disperse in the spring, but they don't all go north. We have them staying here and one of the wonderful sounds in the evening is their long eerie call echoing up the valley. This recording is from Audubon:



VARTH_1.songnum
1_AKtm.mp3



Image from ODFW

Another robin cousin you won't see since they are a bit reclusive – that is unless you hike in the forests - is the Swainson's Thrush. Pacific Northwest populations like dense thickets on stream sides so keep your eyes open when you walk the riverbank. But I'll bet you recognize their song! I really love listening to them, particularly in the evening when everything else is quiet. They are clever about at throwing their voice, these shy birds, so maybe they are near and maybe not.



SWATHR_1.songnum
1_ONle.mp3