

Species: LE CONTE'S THRASHER
(Vernacular name)Toxostoma lecontei
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 07/24/81 Time Bird Seen: 06:38 to 06:41Locality: ABOUT 200 METERS EAST OF COTONWOOD GROVE AT WELCOME SPRINGS NEAR
BENEFICIAL WASH (SW OF SANTA CLARA, WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH)
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 7X35 BINOCULARS (BUSHNELL FEATHERLIGHT)

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Summer - AdultLight conditions: EARLY MORNING - THE SUN HAD JUST "TOUCHED" THE BIRD'S PERCHDistance from bird, and how measured: 30 METERS (PAID OFF)

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

AS THE SUN ROSE OVER THE BENEFICIAL MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST, A THRASHER WHICH HAD APPARENTLY BEEN IN THE SHRUB JUMPED UP ON THE TOP & CALLED ONCE. IT TURNED ITS HEAD TO BOTH SIDES, RAISED ITS TAIL, THEN FLEW TO THE BASE OF A NEARBY MESQUITE & DISAPPEARED FROM VIEW. I WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN ATTEMPTS TO RELOCATE HIM.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

FOOTHILLS - TRANSITION MESQUITE, YUCCA TO JUNIPER (SPARSE) & COTONWOODS & UNIDENTIFIED SHRUBS IN A NEARBY SPRING DRAINAGE.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address)

FORREST LUKE (1650 DEWAR DRIVE #64, ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING 82901)TOLD ME OF SEEING THIS SPECIES NEAR THIS AREA IN JUNE 1981. THAT REPORT PLUS MERRIL WEBB & I SAW A "LIGHT-COLORED" THRASHER NEAR THIS SITE IN

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field notes used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

THE LENGTH WAS 25-30 CM, WINGSPAN ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 25 CM (HE MOVED TOO FAST!) THE BILL WAS STRONGLY DOWNCURVED & ABOUT 6 CM LONG; THE PLUMAGE WAS LIGHT GRAY-BROWN EXCEPT THE TAIL FEATHERS (ABOUT 10 CM) APPEARED DARKER & THE VENTRAL PORTIONS APPEARED EVEN LIGHTER (I.E. THROAT, BREAST, ETC.); THERE WAS A DARK STRIPE FROM THE BASE OF THE BILL THROUGH THE EYE & MOST NOTICEABLY THE UNDERTAIL COVERTS WERE LIGHT.

* THE EYE DID NOT APPEAR YELLOW BUT THE OBSERVATION WAS NOT A LONG ONE

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

A SINGLE "HARSH" CALL WAS UTTERED FROM A PERCH

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

SAGE THRASHER - HAS STREAKED BREAST, MUCH SHORTER BILL, WHITE WING-BARS, DARKER PLUMAGE

BENDIRE'S THRASHER - SHORTER BILL & LIGHTLY STREAKED BREAST, DARKER PLUMAGE

CRISSAL THRASHER - HAS DARKER PLUMAGE & RUSTY UNDERTAIL COVERTS
CACTUS WREN - SMALLER, HEAVILY STREAKED, WHITE SUPERCILIARY LINE

Prior experience with this and similar species:

THIS WAS A NEW SPECIES FOR ME. I HAVE SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS OF SAGE, CRISSAL & BENDIRE'S THRASHERS

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☒ observation; from memory

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