

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Leconte's Thrasher Scientific Name: *Toxostoma lecontei*
 Date: 14 March 1985 Time: 1015 Length of time observed: 15 min.
 Number: 1 Age: adult Sex: male
 Location: Beaver Dam Slage, Washington Co. 0.3 miles N of Ariz.
 state line & 1.5 miles W of Hwy 91 T43S, R19W, sec. 35 NE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Latilong: 19 Elevation (if known): 2600 ft.
 Distance to bird: ~ 100 ft Light conditions: Overcast, making
 Optical equipment: 7X35 binocs bird appear a little darker
 than usual.
 Weather: overcast, 50°, light wind.

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Length of bird about 10 inches. Coloration was light brown over entire body except tail. Tail was dark brown, about 4 inches & slender. Eye was black, also legs. Bill was black, about 1 inch long, slender, & decurved, but not as decurved as Crissal Thrasher. Bird appeared darker than normal because of poor light conditions, but still quite light.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: Bird sang from top of Joshua tree
Song quite melodious & with little repetition of phrases. Bird would
sing continuously for 1-2 minutes, pause a few seconds, then sing more

Behavior:

song from top of Joshua. Fly from tree to ground once &
reappeared on top of another Joshua about 100 feet away.

Habitat:

scattered creosote, Joshua trees, & bur sage.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Crissal thrasher is much darker, bill more decurved, &
tail longer. Seldom encountered in such sparse habitat.
Bendire's thrasher is a little darker with faint streaking
on breast, bill less decurved, yellow iris.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I observed Leontas at this location 2 years ago & have
seen it in Arizona previously. Very familiar with Crissal
& Bendire's thrashers.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

4th documented record for state.

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting X notes made later from memory

Observer: Steven Hedges

Signature: Steven Hedges

Address: 889 S. Cedar Knolls W.
Cedar City, UT 84720

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

none this sighting. Ella & Richard Sorensen, Joelle Buffa,
& Clyde Merris saw a bird (probably same) here on 3/9/85.

Date prepared: 15 March 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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