

13-1987

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APPENDIX V  
UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Latilong \_\_\_\_\_ Record type \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition \_\_\_\_\_ Cx Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name Bendire's Thrasher  
Scientific Name Toxostoma bendirei  
Obs. date June 18, 1987 Time(s) 1230  
Duration of obs. 15 minutes  
Distance from birds: 40 yds for one, 55 yds for other two.  
Light conditions Full sun almost directly overhead  
Optical equip. Nikon 9X30 binos  
Photo equip. none  
Notes made at time of sighting X  
Notes made later from memory X

Date report prepared  
Sept. 17, 1987

Weather at time of this observation.  
clear, no wind, about 85° F

Prior weather and number of days since change  
Same except occasionally windy.  
At least ten days, possibly 20 or more, since change.

Locality About 2.6 miles north of Harley Dam, UT.  
T18S, R25E, Sec. 28, ne 1/4.  
Elevation 4,900 feet.  
Latilong block number 13

| Enter number of birds in each category. | GENDER(S)         | AGES(S)            | PLUMAGE(S)     | PHOTO(S)        |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Total number observed.                  | Males _____       | Adults _____       | Breeding _____ | Available _____ |
| <u>three</u>                            | Females _____     | Juv/Imms _____     | Eclipse _____  | Enclosed _____  |
|                                         | ♀ or Imms _____   | 2/3 yr birds _____ | Winter _____   | Light ph. _____ |
|                                         | Unknowns <u>3</u> | Unknowns <u>3</u>  | Other _____    |                 |

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

When first seen at ~65 yds, it was clear they were thrashers by often posing on juniper branches w/ body horizontal + tail cocked up diagonally. All three were together when I moved ten yds closer + one was seen to be slightly smaller in body + length (2 ~ 9-10" l. + 1 ~ 8-9" l.). (Hereafter called the "pair" + the "immature" for discussion, tho I am not knowledgeable enough to truly separate such ages). Then flying farther off into the grass, I eventually approached to 40 yds from the immature who perched openly on a dead juniper's branch while the pair fed in grass at 55 yds, hopping up into the open onto low branches now + then. At this point I began my 15 min observation w/ elbows on knees + my "Golden" 183 Field guide open before me, + saw the following:

Immature: In the first 5 min, when it first perched, it bobbed its tail up w/ an occasional faint "chuck" note, then settled down w/ occasional preening. It had a short slightly curved bill more like a thick robin bill than the long curved bill commonly seen among the desert thrashers. Base of lower mandible appeared lighter but I was unsure of this. Iris yellow. Overall body color various shades of light brown w/ throat, breast + belly lighter; back + upper/under tail coverts tan; richer + slightly darker brown remiges + rectrices (no white spots or streaks on ventral rectrices). Very faint + short vertical breast streaks. No wingbars, earpatch or eyestripe.

The Pair: Tho harder to see + seen for shorter periods, they clearly had same bill shape + body color, but I was too far away to positively see eye color. There appeared to be no earpatch, + there appeared to be faint breast streaks, but I am unsure of both features. They responded to the immature's calls with a few of the same "chucks", but didn't seem worried. After 15 min., the immature flew to the ground w/ the pair, + I left.



Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

See "The Pair" under "Description of bird".

Variations from expected field marks.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Sage Thrasher: Upper body not gray or as dark. Underparts without the heavy streaking, not as white base color, + w/ tan, instead of white undertail coverts. Tail clearly longer relative to body. No white on tail or wings.

Curve-billed Thrasher: Bill clearly too short + straight. Body clearly various shades of light brown (lacking any gray overtones except for slight hints in the remiges + retrices. Eye yellow, clearly not orange (in the bird where color was visible). No obvious earpatch definition. The three birds all made "chuck" notes.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

See "Description of bird". No other species present.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Pinyon/jumper community w/ understory dominated by dense cheatgrass and needle & thread grass (Stipa comata), w/ occasional shrubs (4-wing saltbush, if my memory is right).

Describe bird's song or sounds. One bird reacted to my presence initially with faint "chuck" notes accompanied by tail jerking. The other two birds responded with the same call.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

Nelson S. Boschen  
P.O. Box 20  
Moab, UT 84532

Signature Nelson S. Boschen

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I've observed many sage thrashers in UT + AZ, but only a few of each species of long-billed, brown, curved-billed, LeConte's, + Crissal. My first + only other Bendire's was last Dec. 27 at the Tucson Sewage Ponds as mentioned in Lane's 1986 se AZ guide.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_