

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: BROWN THRASHER

Scientific Name: TOXOSTOMA rufum

Date: JUNE 21, 1988 Time: 5:15 pm

Length of time observed: 15-20 minutes

Number: 1

Age: Adult

Sex: ?

Location: 3324 Louisa Ave. SLC
back yard

Latilong: 6

Elevation (if known): ~ 4600

Distance to bird: 50 feet

Light conditions: excellent

Optical equipment: 10x50 binoculars

Weather: clear

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

Bird was longer than a robin, body about the same size but overall slimmer profile with long tail.

Uniform rufous-brown above. Bright color similar to Fox Sparrow tail, Chipping Sparrow crown, or Junco back. White or light creamy underneath with heavy streaked spots on breast extending down sides and belly. Spots were pointed on top.

Two ^{light} wing bars, with front one most noticeable. Undertail coverts white. Eye bright yellow/orange.

Tail very long, almost body length, and sometimes somewhat cocked.

Bill dark, long, heavy, & slightly decurved. Length about the distance from front to back of head.

Wings extended just past rump and hung down below undertail coverts like a Robin.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: *None*

Behavior: *Stayed on the ground. Came out from dense vegetation, ate popcorn on the ground, seemed cautious & alert, retreated back to ground cover. Profile horizontal to ground.*

Habitat: *Backyard of a residence, close to Parley's Gulch & the foot hills. Quite a few large trees around. Stayed in thick stand of tall (8'?) exotic vegetation (bamboo?) in corner of the yard. Fed under pine tree.*

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

Sage Thrasher: Rufous brown, not gray. Longer than a robin. Bill & tail relatively longer. Location, habitat, & behaviour different than the Sage Thrasher's I have seen.

Hermit Thrush: Upperparts all uniform rufous brown. Much bigger. Bill relatively longer & heavier, tail longer. No eye ring. Eye color yellowish/orange.

What experience have you had with this and similar species: *Saw 1 in Delaware last year. Somewhat familiar with Sage Thrasher and Hermit & Swainson's Thrushes.*

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

Looked it up in Nat'l Geographic before going over. Confirmed it with Nat'l Geographic & Peterson guide after. Served as confirmation.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Listed as rare in Utah.

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

Description from notes taken at time of sighting _____ notes made later _____ from memory ☒

Observer: *BRUCE HEATH*

Signature: *Bruce Heath*

Address: *2401 QUAIN HOLLOW DR.*

SANDY, UT. 84093

942-2306

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

SCOTT & CHRISTINA LARSEN

Date prepared: *JUNE 23, 1988*

Return this form to: *Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
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