

Common Name: Bendire's Thrasher Scientific Name: Toxostoma Bendirei
 Date: 22 May 93 Time: ~7:45-8:15pm Length of time observed: about 5 mins +
 Number: 2 Age: Adult Sex: ?
 Location: 100 yards to 1/4 mile north of Arizona Border on ^{old} Hwy ~~to~~ West of Beaver Dam Mtns in Washington Co., UT.
 Lat/long: ? Elevation (if known): < 2000'
 Distance to bird: about 100 feet Light conditions: evening - Sun still up
 Optical equipment: Leica 10x42 Binoculars (? Behind me.)
 Weather: Clear Sky; Warm Evening; little ~~at~~ wind ~ 80°F(?)
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

1st Bird:

Mockingbird sized brown bird sitting in top of Joshua tree. No outstanding field marks. Bill straight - slight droop at tip. The bird flew to the west - No wing bars or patches of lighter color in wings - long tail all dark brown with no white markings visible.
 After eliminating all other possibilities, this bird fits the ID of Bendire's Thrasher.

2nd Bird: 5-10 minutes later - 1/4 mile north on East Side of Highway. Another bird of same description is in a Joshua tree (top) singing. We moved to within 100' listening & noting field marks. Same ^{#1} Brown bird Mockingbird size - Not a mockingbird song - No wing bars - Same bill as above - Not sickle shaped but straight & as long as the width of head. Light colored eye. Back and tail very very slightly darker than belly of bird. ⁰ slight droop at tip of bill. light ⁱⁿ Butty wash in vent area. No dark streaks in breast.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: 2nd Bird was singing from top of Joshua Tree. "Thrasher Song." After the bird flew we played tapes in the car of all of the Mimidae - ruling out each until the Bendin which was the final choice.
Singling in the top of a Joshua tree. Several minutes - then flew. Sorewhat "labored" flight.

Habitat: Mojave Desert type - Joshua Tree forest.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated: Crissal or LeContes Thrasher - This bird did not have sickle shaped bill - also no "red" under rump. Mockingbird - This bird had no white in wings or tail when it flew. Brown Thrasher - totally wrong color & no wing bars or streaks on breast. Sage Thrasher - No streaks in breast - Tail wrong - No white.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Have seen this bird in Arizona - also seen all of the other Thrashers except LeContes. On this trip we also observed Crissal Thrasher & 100's of Mockingbirds.

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

Petersons Western Field Guide (1990) - Consulted after the 1st bird & during viewing of second bird. Also Peterson Western Bird Song Type Played within minutes of hearing the bird sing.

Significance of record in this area or the state: "Rare" for Utah - Records are few and many are from a different part of the state - Not recent.

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

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

Observer: Dave Thompson
Address: 1638 Kensington Ave
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Signature: 

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

David Salas Wheeler

Date prepared: 26 May 1993

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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