

Species: BENDIRE'S THRASHER

Toxostoma bendirei

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): Aug 2 + 3, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 12 AM to 10 AM, each day for approx 10m

Locality: In valley field (corn + grass) with irrigation, and field of sage with chico bushes

Nearest Town: Bayfield, CO (4 miles southwest) County: La Plata

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

| NAME                | ADDRESS                                            | TELEPHONE       |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Paul Merry</u>   | <u>1551 E. Cornell Ave. Englewood CO</u>           | <u>781-6124</u> |
| <u>Marcia Merry</u> | <u>Apartado Postal 251 Cuautla, Morelos Mexico</u> | <u>None</u>     |

Optical Equipment: Binoculars 7X35 and 10X50

If photographed, type of equipment used: 200 power Vivitar lens on Miranda 35 mm.

Light Conditions: Sunny in AM - cloudy in PM - 3 shots (from cabin door) good.

Distance from bird (how measured): Approx. 30 ft. from cabin to fence + chico bush

(thorny) where bird sang.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Brownish head, white throat, faint

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: (believe same as only one seen each time) tail breast streaks, yellow eye.

Perched on fence pole or upper part of chico where he frequently sang continuously, without pause, a kind of thrush like warble (to us).

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Body size + shape (even bill size + shape) similar to a robin (little less plump and longer tail (more down)).

Color pattern: Solid brownish over head, back, sides + tail.

Bill fairly straight + slender (about robin like - as said).

No markings on wings, 'cept for faint faint wing bar.

Throat light color - almost white with one side-mark or line, down.

Breast - lightly + indistinctly marked (not definite streaks) on upper half, definitely below throat.

Eye - yellow.

No head marking, 'cept few side "streaks". No tail markings.

(\* Two photos given to J. Reddell)  
 (OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

White song, sat fairly straight, quietly & with head up - and on fence or ear top of chico bush.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Dry area of sage, rabbit brush, chico & fields (irrigated).

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

- ① This had yellow eye & no long curved bill like Curve-billed-Thrasher.
- ② " " no white wing bars like Sage Thrasher.
- ③ " " no definite breast streaks like " "
- ④ " " " " white on tail side edge.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Had heard & seen both Sage Thrasher & Curve-billed Thrasher in Pueblo area, with CFO led trip & leader Dave G.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Checked - as looked at & listened to - this bird, using Robbins, B & Zim and Peterson's book.

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

PRINT NAME: Bernice Merry SIGNATURE: Bernice Merry DATE: May 31  
Street Address: 1551 E. Chaffin Ave. Town and State: Englewood ZIP: 80110

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Jack: Enclosed tape has recorded song of this bird on side (2) our guessing as to what this strange bird was (no idea at time).