

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Bendire's Thrasher; Toxostoma bendirei
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 6/19/84 Time Bird Seen: 2:15 PM to 3:00 PMLocality: Road 660 Northwest of Del Norte, Rio Grande
County, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 12x40 Nikon binoculars/20-45 Bushnell Zoom Spacemaster
Spotting ScopeIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: NANumber of birds seen: 3 Sex: ? Plumage: adultLight conditions: clear sunny day - mostly viewed with sun at the
back of the observersDistance from bird, and how measured: 30 feet / paced after observationDescribe the bird's overall behavior: occasionally near ground or on lower
branches of sagebrush - later in response to tape singing from top of
juniper + sage brush, & flying from bush to bush. Bird did not respond to
Sage Thrasher tape - birds responded immediately to Bendire tape from Net Ger Regional

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Sagebrush - Juniper Max

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

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APPENDIX 11 Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Bill - upper mandible curved primarily toward end. Lower mandible relatively straight. Base of lower mandible clearly pale-colored - This was seen head-on in good light with bird singing at 45 power in a Bushnell spotting scope.

Breast - streaked with thin streaks formed by arrow shaped (A) spots. Streaks didn't dominate breast.

Color - Brownish-grey - no change from back to tail

Shape - Longtailed-Thrasher appearance -

Size - Between Sage & Curvebilled Thrasher - close in size appearance to Sage.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery--

i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: From perch at top of bushes - in response to tape recording made from Nat. Geo. record of Bendires Thrasher. Bird call almost identical to recording & bird once started other song continuously for 5-10 minute periods. Bird did not respond to Sage Thrasher recording.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Curve-billed Thrasher - This bird had far less curvature to its bill. Bill had pale lower mandible base. Breast streaking in streaks w/ smaller spots. Call distinctly different.

Sage - This bird had greater curvature to bill plus greater length & pale base to lower mandible. Breast streaking of this bird was much finer - didn't dominate breast plus shape of spot clearly arrow shaped (A) & point at top. Plus response to tape clear.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Sage Thrasher - I see ^{these} Sage Thrashers on almost every trip to Grand Junction area - normally 3-4/year.

Curvebilled Thrasher - seen Colo & Texas - in Colo normally once/year in Baca Co.

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

Name (print) : Victor M Zerbi Jr

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Signature: Victor M Zerbi Jr

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
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City Park
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