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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Bendire's Thrasher | Toxostoma bendirei
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): June 21, 1986 and Wednesday June 25, 1986 (raining - no good observations)Number of birds seen: 4 Sat (3 Wed) Sex: — Plumage: —
(see map over)Locality: 6 miles NNW of Dele Norte on Route 66.0 Elevation: 8500 feetNearest town: Dele Norte (dirt road) County: SaguacheTime(s) observed: Saturday (carefully studied from 7 AM - 11 AM) Wed - quick look 3 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 5 to 15 minutes per birdOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
Peter Galt and I spent from 7 AM to noon studying the Thrashers Cairo + I spent 30 minSaturday - Peter Galt 55 South 35th St. Boulder 80303 494-1750Wednesday - Jerry Cairo 2621 23rd Ave #36 Greeley 80631 330-7076

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Saturday good Wednesday poor - light rainOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 20x telescopesDistance, and how measured: 100 to 300 feet estimatedIf photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird? —

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

No. 1 bird - Singing from top of 50' piñon pine and dropping down to ground to feed - Acting very territorial (Peter thought it was probably the male)
other birds - Singing from lower perches (Nowhere to be found, on the following Wed.)
Wed. with Cairo - all birds skittish, little singing

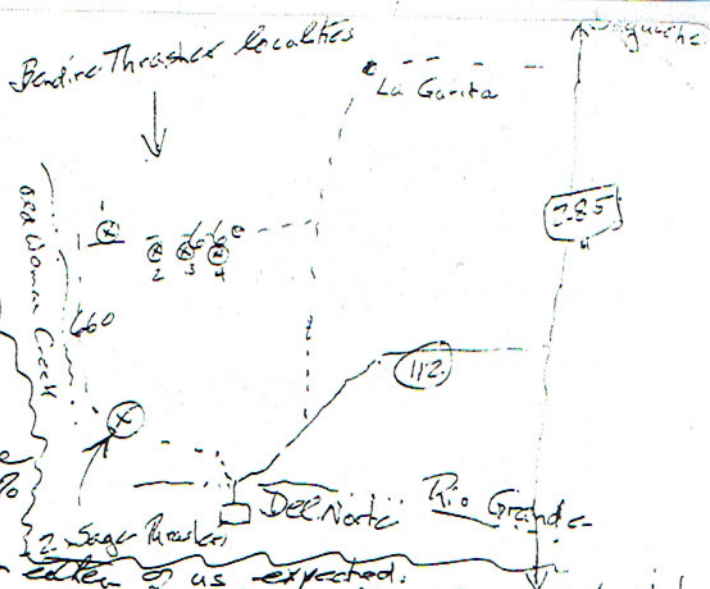
Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only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

The bird was slightly smaller than a robin with a longer tail and longer, slightly curved bill. No. 1 and No. 4 birds had lemon yellow eyes which convinced me that they were Bendire's Thrashers. No. 2 and No. 3 birds had darker yellow eyes. (females??)
All 4 birds had arrow-headed flecks on their breasts, but the flecking extended farther down the breast than either the Geographic or Golden guides illustrations. The overall color was a pale brown. The Sage Thrashers at 8000' were a darker brown. No. 1 and No. 4 birds had absolutely no wing bars. No. 2 and No. 3 birds had indistinct wing

All 4 birds had some white on rear wing-coverts
No. 2 bird had a lot of white

Description (continued):

bars like the Sage Thrashers at 8000'.
No. 1 and No. 4 birds looked most like the
Golden Guide P. 247. None of the birds looked
like the National Geographic P. 339 (Geographic
bird has a bill which is too curved, and
the flecking does not extend down the breast
far enough, and the tail is rounded).
Both Peter and I had looked in the same
locality in 1985. ~~I~~ I thought all birds I
saw were Sage Thrashers. Peter came away
undecided. In 1986 on Sat June 21, I thought 2 were
Bendire's, 2 questionable. Peter had "a naging 2%
doubt that they were all Sage Thrashers.
Unquestionably there is much more variability than



Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from Marka Vista perch, in flight, duration):

Variable, lasting 5-10 seconds, 2-3/minute, always delivered from a perch. The most distinctive aspect (to me) was the initial churning, like a motor starting to rev up, at the beginning of each song sequence.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Dry, Pinyon Pine and Juniper, relatively open slightly hilly country just ~~about~~ above sage brush plains which contain Sage Thrashers and understory coverts

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The 2 Sage Thrashers at 8000' had long streaks on the breast instead of arrow-headed flecks, the eyes were dark, the white tail-feather edgings were prominent. However the wing bars were not strong. The Sage Thrashers were smaller than No. 1 Bendire Thrasher, but Peter & I didn't think there was an 1/4" difference in size between the Sage & Bendire's Thrashers - maybe half that amount. Not a Curve-billed Thrasher because the bill was not curved enough, the birds were too small and too light-colored. No Curve-billed has lemon-yellow

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen several Bendire's Thrashers in southeastern Arizona. Now I think there were 4 Bendire's and the key is the breast flecking. Arrow-heads with no flecks or streaks on the throat or understory coverts. Perhaps there is some interbreeding of Bendire's and Sage Thrashers north of Deer North.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

- a) at time of observation: National Geographic and Golden Guides
We had no tape recordings of songs.
- b) after observation: ~~same~~ Same

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: Friday June 27, 1986

Reporting observer: L. W. Dan Bridges Signature: L. W. Dan Bridges

Address: 1925 S. Vaughn Way # 207 Aurora, CO 80014

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Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
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CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

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Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Bewpiper's Thrasher

(Vernacular Name)

Toxostoma bendirei

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): June 25, 1986Number of birds seen: 2-3Sex: ?Plumage: adultsLocality: WEST OF DEL NORTE, OLD WAGON'S CREEK AREAElevation: not sureNearest town: Del NorteCounty: Rio GrandeTime(s) observed: 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1 hour

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Dan Bridges 1925 S. VAUGHN WAY #207, AURORA, CO 80014 (303-755-7665)

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

FAIR Light conditions on these birds, partly cloudy dayOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7X50 BINOCULARS, 20X SPOTTING SCOPEDistance, and how measured: closest bird was 40 feetIf photographed, type of equipment and film: _____Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Acting territorial flying from tree to tree, singing, calling.
This activity allowed for some good looks.

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

I will describe the best seen bird.A brown thrasher size bird, noticeably bigger than Sage Thrashers.Bill - upper mandible slightly curved downward, lower mandible appeared to be straight, darkish colored. Eyes were yellow with

Description (continued):

black; pupil.

Indistinct arrow-shaped spots on the breast, no wing bars present. Grayish head, also the back and tail (top and underside). Breast color was light gray with very slight buffy noted. When bird flew a slight amount of white noticed on tail corners. Legs not noticed.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

hard to describe - a series of warbles, trills, some low notes.

Overall a rather pleasing song.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

It and they (3) were all seen in Piñon Pine trees that were 10 to 30 feet high.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Sage Thrasher - This seems to be confusing to birders who go to Del Norte to see Bewdley's Thrasher. Sage Thrashers are noticeably smaller, have distinct streaking on the breast, has white wing bars also white in tail quite prominent.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

ALSO in this area there for sure Sage Thrashers? They are in the low Sagebrush areas. We found one Sage Thrasher in a low area between 2 Piñon Pine areas where Bewdley's were present.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

I see Sage Thrashers every summer in Webb County and have studied them at North Park.

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation:

Geographic book, Golden Guide, Peterson's book
Audubon Society's Master Guide to Birding

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation ☒ from me:

Date and time report was written: ~~July~~ June 27, 1986

Reporting observer: Jerry Cairo Signature: Jerry Cairo

Address: 2621 23rd Ave #36, Greeley, CO 80631

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