

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: June 9, 1990Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: AdultLocality: North of Del Norte on Forest Service Road 660 Elevation: 9000 feet ±Nearest town: 1 mile ± east of right angle turn and 1/4 mile north of Road 660
Del Norte County: Rio GrandeTime observed: 8:30 - 8:45 AM SaguacheDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 15 minutes

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

None

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

None

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

Sun was bright and behind meOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8x binocularsDistance, and how measured: 300 - 500 feet est.If 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):

Singing from the top of a piñon pine. Flew several times when I got too close.

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:

In between a robin and bluebird in size with a longer tail.
When I first spotted the bird about 1000 feet away, I was immediately convinced it could not be a Sage Thrasher because of the overall pale gray coloring. As I got closer, the streaking on the chest struck me as being much neater and smaller (not long and sloppy) than on a Sage Thrasher and the

Description (continued): streaking ended abruptly at the mid-belly exactly as shown in the Natural Geographic illustration. The ~~the~~ head, back, ~~the~~ wings, and tail were all pale gray. I saw no wing bars or white in the corners of the tail. The bill was fairly long and slightly downcurved. I purposefully wrote the above before I went back to my June 21, 1986 report of Bendire's Thrasher. I note that I described the 1986 birds as "pale brown" with "flecking extending farther down the breast". I am suspicious that the 1986 birds may have been hybrids of Sage + Bendire's Thrashers. In 1986 we had some doubts. I'm sure this 1990 bird was 100% Bendire's Thrasher. Maybe one needs to keep up high to avoid hybrids.

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

The bird sang what I would call typical Thrasher songs fairly continuously except when I got too close. It was not loud but this was a very still morning and I heard the bird from the road nearly 1/4 mile away. Singing was always done from a perch on top of piñon pine.

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

Juniper - piñon open country well above the sagebrush flats. This bird was 500 feet above the road way up the draw.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? I am writing this report because

Peter Galt and I had a lot of trouble deciding whether we had

Sage or Bendire's Thrashers on June 21, 1986 in this same area.

This bird was obviously not a Sage Thrasher because it had no brownish caste, it had no wing bars, it had ~~no~~ no white in the corners of the tail and the streaking stopped just below the chest so most of the belly was not streaked.

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

I've seen many Sage Thrashers and a few Bendire's Thrashers in Arizona.

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

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: Natural Geographic and Golden Guide Birds of North America

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

Date and time report was written: 7PM June 12, 1990

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

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All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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