

Species: Brown Thrasher
(Vernacular name)Toxostoma rufum
(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.

Date (s): June 13, 1981 Time Bird Seen: 9:00 to 9:05 A.M.Locality: Skull Valley - 18 miles north of Durward, Tooele Co. Utah
Nearest town, county and state: 18 miles south of Timpie SpringsOptical equipment: 7 X 50 Binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Spring or Summer
same in all seasons isn't itLight conditions: GoodDistance from bird, and how measured: 8-15 ft. Too close for binocs to be at one point.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Saw the bird disappear into a current bush along a fence line while conducting a Timpie Springs B.B.S. for Fish & Wildlife Service. Observed long tail & rusty-colored back, at that time so stopped to investigate. It held tight & didn't move until I got right up bush; after looking into bush it flushed & flew into a bush north along fence line about 20 feet away. It was then very difficult to find because it would move to opposite part of current bush where I was standing or moving with only the sound of it fluttering indicating it was still there. Finally after a couple of minutes of my moving along the east side of fence from north to south & back with no results I called for

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Gee Ring Liu, University of Utah Biology Student
who has helped me twice before on these counts
to come & stand to the south of the bush where
over -> to

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.

I crossed fence & waited for see to move up. It was then that I could see the slightly curved bill, the rich brown back & the heavy streaking on the white breast. The eye was light colored - not dark - but couldn't actually see the yellow due to heavy foliage shading bird. It was thrasher sized, with a longer tail than robin or thrush. When it finally flew from bush to trees near a ranch house about 20 yds. to the north it was easy to see the longer tail than what a thrush has. Based on the above mentioned characteristics, plus the fact that it took a lot to make it fly I conclude that it was not a thrush of any kind.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

none

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Long-billed-thrasher - longer bill, more curved, less spotted
Sage thrasher - smaller & grayer; no white on outer tail corners when it flew.
Bill was slightly longer in bird I saw.

Hermit thrush - Tail was same color, but back was richer brown than in thrush. Tail was longer, no spotting on breast, it was streaked. Bigger than thrush. Plus wood thrush usually in forest-type habitat.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Saw this species five years ago in New York state. my experience with Hermit thrush, Sage thrasher & Cassin thrasher.

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

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