

BIRD SIGHTING
ZION NATIONAL PARK

2-1989

SPECIES: Bendire's Thrasher

DATE: 4/28/89

TIME: 9:00 AM

LOCATION: PETRIFIED FOREST TRAIL (ABOUT 50 YARDS FROM THE TRAILHEAD)

HABITAT: Scattered Pinon/Juniper with considerable Blackbrush (*Colocynes* sp.)

DESCRIPTION: My attention was called by the rich singing of a thrasher-like bird which I observed sitting in a blackbrush. The bird I observed had the following markings: size about 10 inches (larger than a robin, about jay sized), color pale grayish brown on head, back, + tail, pale grayish breast with medium ~~to~~ brown streaking on chest + sides. ~~Yellowish~~ Yellowish eye was clearly seen from a distance. Bill was longish and slightly decurved. Bill was pale on lower mandible especially near the face.

Bendire's Thrasher is not listed on the Zion checklist but it should occur here (see National Geographic Field guide and AOU (1983)). The bird I observed was larger both in length and weight than a Sage Thrasher, it was less heavily streaked on the breast than a Sage Thrasher and the bill was longer, more curved, and paler than the Sage Thrasher. Its bill was shorter and less curved than a Curve-billed or LeConte's Thrasher. It was paler in color than a Crossbill Thrasher).

I have seen Bendire's Thrasher on numerous other occasions in the California + Arizona deserts, and I'm also familiar with other SW thrashers.

Observer: Joe Zarke (also Marilyn Lutz)

Observer's Address: P.O. Box 566

Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
307-344-7811, ext. 2338.

Date of Report: 4/28/89