

From: rkstanford <raykitstanford@gmail.com>
Subject: California Thrashers (2) on our SE-facing porch
Date: May 21, 2017 5:42:23 PM PDT
To: Rvm List Server <rvmlist@yahoogroups.com>
Reply-To: Kit Stanford <ray.stanford@stanfordalumni.org>

Hello fellow bird lovers,

An hour ago we saw 2 California Thrashers on the railings of our deck. They stayed around nearly 10 minutes, one trying our platform feeder briefly before hopping back down to the rail with the other one. Then away they flew, perhaps to some of your decks or yards also? There are at least 6 previous records of this bird from Jackson County, but apparently not elsewhere in Oregon. I grew up with these birds in southern California, where they occur mainly in chaparral scrublands inland from many urban areas, mainly seen on the ground. We have also seen them in the East Bay area in central California and on both sides of the Central Valley. They are slightly larger than mockingbirds, which are abundant in California but we have seen none in 10 years living here. The downturned bill is distinctive, and the facial markings of the pair we saw were not quite as prominent as illustrated in Sibley. We also know Bendire's Thrasher from friends' yard in Phoenix, Arizona - smaller and more plain.

Please watch for these any of you with interest, and perhaps let us know if you see them!

Cheers, Ray and Kit

RECEIVED from RAY STANFORD
at SEPT. RVAS meeting