

Oregon Rare Bird Report Form

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To submit a rare bird report to the Oregon Bird Records Committee, please send an email to Autumn207@comcast.net and include the following information:

Your name Tom Love

Your email tlove@linfield.edu

Bird Identification: Write in the name of the species you have identified and information on numbers of birds you saw, sex, plumage, and age, etc.

California Thrasher

One

Male?

Adult? (since singing)

Date(s): Month, day, and year. If there are multiple observations, list each date.

Wednesday, 1 April 2020

Time of Day

About 4 pm

Location: Be specific. Describe habitat.

899-729 Holton Rd., Talent, OR. 42°12'49.63"N, 122°48'13.21"W.

A rural neighborhood SW of Talent, characterized by a pathwork of oak, maple and brushy tangles around houses and between fields. As I understand it, California Thrasher was found here in 2019 by a group of SOU students on a field trip. The bird(s) continued here in 2020.

Lighting and Weather Conditions

Overcast and cool, no wind.

Details: Include what was actually observed. Stress field marks: bill, eye, wings, tail, legs, shape, proportions, etc. Include behavior: feeding, resting, flying, interactions with other species, etc. Describe voice: song, call, or notes, if heard.

This stakeout bird was cooperative but took maybe 20+ minutes before I heard it singing a hundred yards or so ESE behind the house, over toward the left in a line of blackberry parallel to a red barn. Five or so minutes later the bird flew up to the front of the house and sat (territorially, I'd say) singing from the top of a small cedar tree along the road. The bird showed all fieldmarks well – first voice, as noted, then when it flew up to front of house there was a classic thrasher shape, longish decurved bill, long tail, slim, a sort of leather brown overall, slightly buffy warm undertail coverts, whitish throat with some facial markings. It was bold and easily studied. I did not see it interact with other species.

Similar Species: Also, explain how you ruled out these similar species.

Uniform brown plumage, tawny undertail coverts and voice rule out Curve-billed Thrasher.

Uniform unstreaked brown plumage, longish decurved bill and voice rule out Bendire's Thrasher.

Warm brown plumage, voice, and buffy (not reddish) undertail coverts rule out Crissal Thrasher.

Anything else you want to add?

I spoke with the owner, she added some context that may be well known but that I haven't seen reported elsewhere. The birds have been here for five years, this being the sixth. This year's

(2020) bird showed up on January 1st, and since it has a different song she thinks it's an offspring, perhaps. I mused that perhaps the birds were resident, but she is sure they leave about July (likely they are resident and just stop singing?).

Do you have photos or videos? If so, attach them to your email.
No.

Send your email to Autumn207@comcast.net

Thank you!

CATH-2020-08 (California Thrasher)
1st Round vote — September 16, 2020

ACCEPTED: 9
NOT ACCEPTED: 0

ACCEPTED, verified

This is presumably a returning bird from last year. I vote to accept it as having been present 29 March - 6 July, as there are good pictures in eBird from both of those dates and many dates in between.

ACCEPTED, sight record, single report

No comments

Description is good, and by an experienced observer. Not likely the same bird as the June record 25 miles to the SE. Reportedly has occurred at this location in prior years.

A decent report of a well known location for CATH in Oregon. If one goes on eBird, you can find several reports of this species at this location in 2020, with great accompanying documentation. Surprised more folks didn't submit CATH reports from this location.

Known location for this rarity. Adequate description.

The written description describes California Thrasher well, and this is the same location where a bird was seen by a huge number of observers last year. So the only question is how we handle it in our records. It seems probable it's the same individual as last year, and very possible yet unknown whether it remained in the area over the winter. But the homeowner believes it's a different individual based on a difference in the song. And the homeowner reports that the species has been there for 6 years. I'm not honestly sure how it would be best to handle the bookkeeping for this bird(s). ... Oh, and vis a vis CATH-2020-07, the two locations are quite far apart and I see no reason to suspect that the two birds would be the same individual.

no one submitted a photo? Good report, eliminated similar birds.

Adequate description and quite likely the same bird that frequented this neighborhood the previous year. Was it seen after this date?

Good description; known location for this species.

Good description and writeup. Probably resident and not the Soda Mtn bird.

The description adequately eliminates other species of thrasher. This bird or a relative of this bird was seen at the same location last year.

SPLIT OR COMBINE

I believe this record should be split or combined with another record and my reasons are below: I believe this bird should be combined with the 2019 bird at this location