

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species brown thrasher 2. Number: 1

3. Location Kent Park, Johnson Co. IA, ~ 7 mi. west of Iowa City

4. Date: 20 Dec 1975 5. Time Bird seen: ~ 11 AM to duration of sighting about 2 min.

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):  
bird about size of robin, but more slender + with a longer, slender, decurved bill and a much longer, ample tail. upper parts, wings, <sup>2 wing-bars</sup> tail rufous brown. Under-parts whitish, with heavy blackish streaks on breast. ~~Bill + legs dark.~~ Bill + legs dark.

7. Description of voice, if heard: —

8. Description of behavior: perched in small shrubby trees. would immediately fly to another tree when flushed.

9. Habitat - general: Kent Park contains old fields, some growing up to brush, second-growth woods. It is situated in farming country.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: Bird was in an area of dense thickets of small, dense, scrubby trees  
Brown thrashers eliminated by large size, <sup>bold</sup> streaking rather than spotting on breast. Finches (siskin, ♀ n-b. grosbeak) elim. by bill shape, size, rufous color. Sage, long-billed thrashers eliminated by rufous color, range. intensensated with weedy clearings

11. Distance (how measured)? 20-50' (est) 12. Optical equipment: 8x40 binoc's.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): dull grey day with no shadows; sun to S. of obs.; bird was to N. when originally sited; moved to S. later.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: have seen many brown thrashers and all of the thrashers + finches of E. North America. Also have seen long-billed thrasher (Texas).

15. Other observers: Rogan Milkman (finder of bird); Marianne and Paul Milkman, Carol Newton.

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: I confirmed R. Milkman's identification.

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: —

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 6 hr. (taken from field notes taken ~ 1 hr. after sighting)

Signature: Michael C Newton Address: 129 Grove St. Iowa City IA 52240

Date: 4 Jan 76 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

NB  
① Rogan Milkman should get credit for the sighting  
② This bird seen on Iowa City (over) CBC.