

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One seen; sex unknown, age unknown; general plumage unknown
3. Parish: East Baton Rouge
Specific Locality: Longwood Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
4. Date(s) when observed:
First sightings of unfamiliar bird in October 2017. It was seen occasionally through November and December 2017. It was seen foraging near bird feeders in mid-February 2018. Photo was taken on February 26, 2018 at approximately 3:30 p.m. Subsequent sightings occurred in early March as well as on March 17 (attempt to video failed) and March 18 (when Jane Patterson, Van Remsen, Mike Ginn, and Michael Seymour arrived to positively identify it).
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
Occasionally in late mornings (10:00 - 11:30 a.m.) but most frequently in the afternoon between 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address:
Ronlyn A. Domingue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
Todd J. Bourque
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
In December 2017, Bud Snowden, who saw the bird Todd and I had seen since October, suggested it might be a Curve-billed Thrasher.

On March 18, 2018, Jane Patterson, Van Remsen, Mike Ginn, and Michael Seymour visited the neighborhood and was able to positively identify the bird.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bird is typically seen with the sun shining from the south / southwest, late afternoon. Some days the weather has been bright and sunny, others very overcast.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
Digital camera purchased in 2002—Olympus D-550.

11. Distance to bird(s):
Typically 45 - 60 feet, but there were occasions in mid-February 2018 when it was foraging near bird feeders and I could see it outside my windows about two to five feet away.

12. Duration of observation:

- While bird foraged at a distance of 45 - 60 feet, approximately three to five minutes.
- Near bird feeders, close to windows, a few seconds to two minutes.

13. Habitat: Neighborhood with mature trees (various oak species; also tulip poplars, hickory, sweet gum, magnolia, beech) and various types of shrubs. (In 2009, Bill Fontenot came to consult with us on native plants and said our neighborhood had signs of being part of a bottomland hardwood forest once.) At our location, there are areas with leaf litter out in the open and other areas with leaf litter under shrubs and among dead plants.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
Most frequently, we've seen him foraging through dead leaves in our back yard and hopping around near our bird feeders, presumably to forage. If he's foraging and a mockingbird sees him, the mockingbird will often try to run him off, but the thrasher doesn't seem that bothered. At times, we've frightened him when coming up to the front of our house (there's leaf litter under shrubs near the front door), and he's flown up to the top of the roof and stood there, staring at us for a minute or two, then flew off to the north.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):
From a distance, at first the bird's dark coloring and size resembled a Northern Mockingbird's, but then as I watched, I could see it didn't have the light colors on its wings like a mockingbird. Its size was about that of a mockingbird, robin, or brown thrasher. In late 2017, from about 40 feet away, I was able to see its beak had a distinct curve. Then in February 2018, I was able to get a much closer look through a window and

saw the gray plumage on its back, “speckled” plumage on its belly, curved beak, and the (beautiful) orange/gold eyes.

16. Voice: I cannot positively claim I’ve heard a call or song from this bird.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
Brown Thrashers are common here, but because of this bird’s plumage and eye colors and distinct curved beak, it was definitely not one of those.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

(1) Photo taken on February 26, 2018, looking out on my patio near bird feeders. Photo credit: Ronlyn A. Domingue. ATTACHED jpeg *Curve-billed Thrasher Feb 26 2018 credit Ronlyn A. Domingue.*

(2) Photo taken on March 16, 2018, in neighbor’s yard. Photo credit: Bud Snowden. ATTACHED jpeg *Curve-billed Thrasher March 16 2018 credit Bud Snowden.*

19. Previous experience with this species: none

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
Bud Snowden first suggested the identification in December 2017. When I saw the bird again myself after speaking with him, I used *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds* (22nd printing, 1993) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website, the latter being the most helpful.

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds* and Cornell Lab of Ornithology website

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

Yes, I'm positive.

23. Date: 3/19/2018

Time: 12:45 p.m.



