

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: Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

1 in basic plumage

3. Parish: Cameron Parish
Specific Locality: Willow Island
4. Date(s) when observed: November 6, 2021

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:00AM central time

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

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|------------------------------------|
| Reporting observer: James Smithers |
| City: Lake Charles |
| State: Louisiana |

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): None

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): None

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): The bird was South of my observation point with the sun rising to the East; lighting was optimal for viewing

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Leica Trinovid 8x42 HD Binoculars and Fuji X-H1 Camera with 100-400mm lens

11. Distance to bird(s): Approximately 30 ft.

12. Duration of observation: 15 minutes

13. Habitat: Coastal cheniere with Oak trees and dense shrubs backing up to coastal marshland

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Bird was first observed resting on a bare tree branch. After staying here for a few minutes a group of sparrows flushed from beneath the branch that the Sage Thrasher was in which caused the SATH to relocate to a fallen oak tree about 45 ft east of the original observation location. Once again the bird rested in clear view for me to photograph until it later flushed to the dense shrubs on the ground where I never relocated the bird again.

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*):

Similar in size and shape to Northern Mockingbird; overall bulkier than NOMO; shorter bill than other Thrasher species with a slight down curve; overall grayish/brown bird with bare throat and extensive triangular markings on breast leading to bold streaking on flanks; breast and flank markings are what initially helped me distinguish from NOMO; after further observation brownish markings throughout also helped me eliminate NOMO. Yellow eyes; pinkish/gray legs; and thin white wing bars are other features I noticed.

16. Voice:

No vocalization; no attempts at playback

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Northern Mockingbird; eliminated by overall color of bird and distinct markings on breast and flanks

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

Photos to be attached

19. Previous experience with this species:

None other than studying this species in my field guide

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: Merlin; Ebird

b. after observation: Sibley Birds East field guide

21. This description is written from:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | notes made during the observation. | Are notes attached? | No |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | notes made after the observation. | At what date? | 11/6/2021 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | memory | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | study of images | | |

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

Yes

23. Date: November 6, 2021

Time: 9:00AM Central

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

_____ Yes _____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____ Yes _____





