

Long Point Bird Observatory Rare Bird Report

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Canadian Migration
Monitoring Network



Réseau canadien
de surveillance
des migrations



In order that any sight record or banding of a rare species can be confirmed for the historical record, it must be properly documented. LPBO cooperators are therefore asked to complete a form in every case where a rarity is being claimed. Guidance as to which species are considered rare in the Long Point area may be obtained from the LPBO Program Coordinator and in the Long Point Area Checklist found in *A Birding Guide to Long Point Area*. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature.

PLEASE PRINT.

Species claimed: Sage Thrasher

No. of birds: 1

Age: Unknown

Sex: Unknown

Date(s): September 30 to October 1

Place: Tip of Long Point

Time(s) of Observation: 1530 to 1730 September 30. 0730 to 0735 October 1.

Who first saw the bird(s): Stu Mackenzie

Who first identified it: Stu Mackenzie

Other observers (names and addresses):

Matt Slaymaker
Teresa Montras
Ted Gent
Eric Demers
Natalie Tripp
Sarah Nagl
Dominic Cormier
c/o LPBO

Any who disagree: No

Your previous experience with the species: Observed in SE USA.

Your previous experience with any closely similar species:

(a) Formerly: Have observed all North American Thrasher species.

(b) Same day: None.

Species present for comparison: None

Which were beside it for comparison: None

Distance from observer(s): 5 to 100m

How measured: Estimate

Optical aids used: Eyes, 8.5x42 Swarovski EL

Weather conditions (at time of observation)

Visibility: 40km

Cloud Cover: 20-50%

Lighting: Bright

Wind direction and speed: NE – NW 2-4 Beaufort

Other relevant conditions:
(eg. rain, snow cover, etc.)

For "Waterbird " records only

Lake conditions:

Wave height:

Height of observer above lake:

Was observer's position sheltered:

Weather system preceding the date of observation (if known):

Large warm front from south-west in weeks previous. Exact details unknown.

Attach weather map clipping from local or national newspaper if relevant.

Associated movements of other species:

Was the bird trapped: No

Band # if banded:

Was it photographed:

If yes, by whom (name and address):

Specimen or parts preserved:

Present location:

Circumstances:

On mid-afternoon on September 30, I caught the tail end of a small thrasher dart into a juniper bush just off the Tip cabin's north deck. My first thought was, "I don't know what that was", followed by a relatively quick process of elimination ending with "Sage Thrasher?" I approached the juniper and flushed the bird immediately confirming my suspicions as the size, buffy/gray overtones, and subtle white/buffy tips to the rectrices were very diagnostic as it flew away from me. I got a good look at the bird in my binoculars before it disappeared into a group of Red Cedar. As I stalked the bird, I was on my phone frantically trying to get a hold of anyone at the Tip house. After about 10 minutes, Matt Slaymaker finally answered his phone in mid-run from the house. Within 15 minutes news had spread and the eight of us spent 20 minutes trying to track down the bird in an area about 50mx50m. It was incredibly secretive. Everyone was eventually able to get a look as it flew south and worked its way through the grape vines along the south dune where it remained for the next hour. Unfortunately only 'record' quality shots were obtained despite many attempts. Early morning on October 1 I was making my morning visit to the Tip cabin outhouse. Mid-'session' I noticed movement in a juniper bush outside the outhouse and enjoyed watching the bird for about 5 minutes before it continued north into the Tree Swallow grid, never to be seen again. The best bird on my outhouse list so far.

Description:

Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions.

See attached photo.

Plumage appeared fresh, which would be characteristic of both formative and definitive basic individuals. The bird was about 2/3 the size of a Brown Thrasher, gray/light brown was on the back, narrow black and white wing-bars, whitish-buff belly with extensive streaking carrying down toward the vent, prominent white supercilium or line above the eye, distinct white malar stripe extending down to the throat, buffy undertail coverts, relatively short tail for a thrasher with distinct white/buffy tips to the rectrices.



Photo - Stu Mackenzie



Photo - Stu Mackenzie



Photo - Stu Mackenzie

Did you refer to any guides/other literature: No

(a) at the time: No

(b) afterwards: No

Finally, is this record 100% certain? Yes

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Mackenzie". The signature is written in a cursive style.

E-mail Address: stuart@ida.org

Date: January 28, 2013

Mailing Address: c/o LPBO

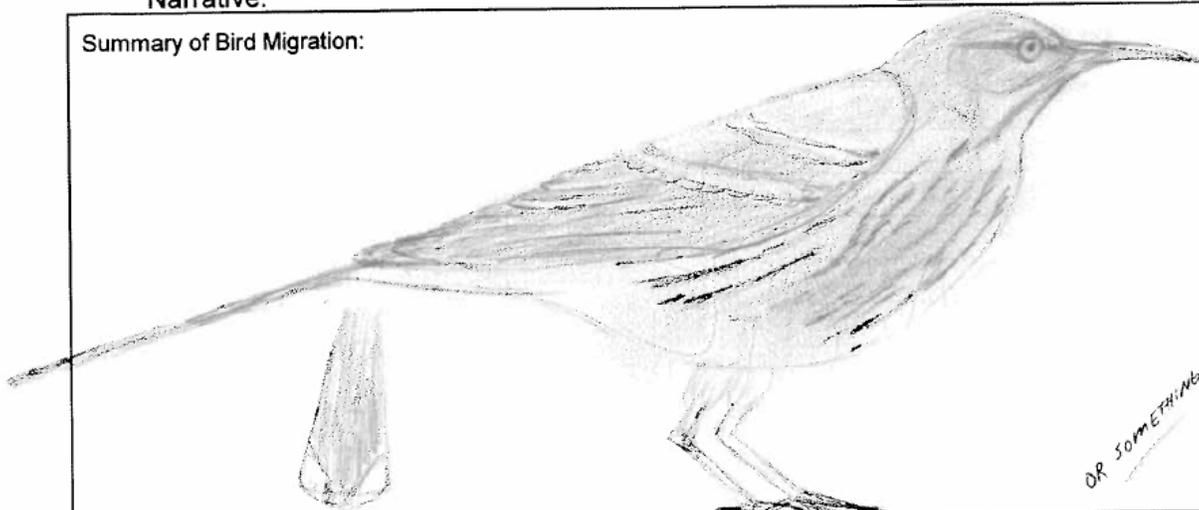
LPBO Daily Log

Day Month Year Area

3,009 2,012 0,1

Narrative:

Summary of Bird Migration:



Facilities & Site Changes/Activities: After taking a short break at the cabin, I paused on the deck for a moment and spotted a Mockingbird size grayish-brown bird disappear into a juniper bush. My first thought was 'I don't know what that was', followed shortly thereafter by 'Sage Thrasher', followed by 'camera', followed by 'Matt, pick up your phone'; it was not a bird I wanted to describe close. I lost it momentarily and got a hold of Matt just as it reappeared briefly. Six of us spent 20 minutes looking for the bird. - It was very reclusive, but did come in clear view a couple of occasions. It hung around the deck just west of the bridge before moving across to the north shore where it spent a good hour resting and eating grapes. Plumage appeared all pink. It was beautifully marked and worked briefly and was a blend of orange/pink

Other Remarks: in the annex.

It was a miraculous team effort finding the bird and keeping track of it until everyone had snuck a peak. Hopefully it sticks around.

Signature: 

Unusual Species						
Species Code	Species Name	Band	Rec	Cens	Obs	ET
S,A,T,H	SAGE THRASHER !!!				1	1
E,A,S,O	F. SCREECH OWL (HY)	1				1

Old Cut Estimated # Visitors	
Old Cut Total # Visitor Groups	
Tip Total # of boats on Shore	
Lighthouse Attraction Put details in Narrative	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Checked

Monarch Butterfly Summary	
Afternoon Census	
Comments:	