

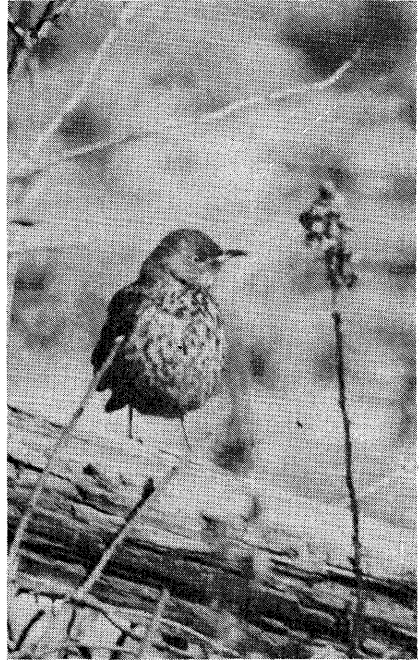
PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

23. Sage Thrasher



Robert Moses Power Dam, St. Lawrence
Co., January 1972.

Photograph by Douglas M. Allen



Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens
Co., 16 January, 1973.

Photograph by Dr. Paul A. Buckley

The Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) is an inhabitant of dry sagebrush plains in western United States, mainly west of the Rocky Mountains. During migration and winter it is found casually eastward across the Great Plains, Further east, along the east coast its occurrence is accidental (Amer. Ornith. Union, 1957. *Checklist of North American Birds*, 5th ed.).

The AOU Checklist, cited above, mentions but one east coast record (from NY), and overlooks a 1949 New Jersey sight report. Since 1957 it has been recorded no less than 11 additional times in the East. This increase in reports is probably due to a burgeoning number of birders,

and their awareness of western strays, rather than any natural cause. Other than New York, the east coast reports are as follows:

1. 27 November, 1949 — seen at Barnegat Light, New Jersey by Q. Kramer, C. E. Price, et al (D. Fables, 1969. *Supplement to an Annotated List of New Jersey Birds*. Uner Ornith Club)
2. 5 December, 1962 — banded and photographed near Leesburg, Virginia by Mrs. H. M. Church, eal (*Audubon Field Notes*, 17:21, 1963)
3. 12 May, 1965 — seen at Pt. Pelee, Ontario, fide James L. Baillie (*Audubon Field Notes*. 19:467, 1965)
4. 5 October, 1965 — seen at Bodie Is., Dare Co., North Carolina by Paul W. Sykes (P. W. Sykes, 1967. *The fall migration of landbirds along the Bodie Island — Pea Island Region of the Outer Banks of Northeastern North Carolina*. N.C. State Univ., unpublished ms thesis).
5. 26 October, 1965 — seen and photographed at Parker River NWR, Mass., fide Ruth P. Emery "Field Notes", Mass. Aud. Newsletter (*Audubon Field Notes*, 20: 7, 1966).
6. 2 October, 1966 — collected at Welland, Ontario by Dan R. Salisbury, specimen to Buffalo Mus. of Science (*Audubon Field Notes*, 21:28, 1967).
7. 11 January, 1969 — collected at Trenton, Florida by David W. Johnston, specimen to Florida St. Mus. at Gainesville (*Audubon Field Notes*, 23:471, 1969)
8. 24 October, 1971 — photographed at Assateague Is., Maryland by Richard A. Rowlett (*American Birds*, 26:44, 1972).

The 5 New York State reports are as follows:
Field Notes, 23:471, 1969)

1. 21 April, 1942 — collected at Braddock Bay, Monroe Co. by Gordon M. Meade and Joseph W. Taylor, specimen at Cornell University (*Auk* 60:104 1943).
2. 18 October, 1958 — banded and photographed at Tiana Beach, Suffolk Co. by Leroy Wilcox (J. Bull, 1964. *Birds of the New York Area*. Harper and Row, N.Y.). A photograph of this individual appears in the *Kingbird*, 15:211, 1965.
3. 27 December, 1971 to 20 January, 1972 — seen and photographed at Robert Moses Power Dam near Massena, St. Lawrence Co. by Douglas and Judy M. Allen (*Kingbird*, 22:100, 1972) — date last seen in *Kingbird* is incorrect according to D. M. Allen).

4. 22 October, 1972 — seen at Jones Beach State Pk., Nassau Co. by Paul Lehman, et al (*Kingbird*, 23:30-40, 1973).
5. 13 to 17 January, 1973 — seen and photographed at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co. This bird was independently discovered by Margarite Juttner, and by Ed Daly, Sam Kornblatt, and Charles Young. During its 5 day stay it could usually be located feeding on multiflora berries or hopping about an open lawn at the NE corner of the West Pond. A large number of birders came to view this bird, and recognizable photographs were obtained by Dr. Paul A. Buckley, Davis Finch, Michael Kleinbaum, and others. This is the first time this record has been published.

Six of the above 13 east coast Sage Thrushers were reported from 2 to 26 October. Five others were reported from the late fall into early winter, to 13 January. Only 2 were reported during spring migration.

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