

Species: Gray-checked Thrush *Hylocichla minima*
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 5-11-75 Time Bird Seen: 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM

Locality: Panby Res.

Nearest Town: Idalia County: Zuni

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Van Damson</u>		
<u>Bob Anderson</u>		

Optical Equipment: 7x35 Pinnac

Light Conditions: clear

Distance from Bird (how measured): 20 to 30 ft estimate

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: _____ Plumage: _____

Overall Appearance and Size: Turdid - shape about 6" long

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): short, dark tip

Legs (shape and color): pair

Crown and Forehead: gray-brown

Eye (color): dark

Nape: gray-brown

Face: over

Throat: white

Breast and Sides: white spotted - tinge of gray on sides

Belly and Flanks: white

Undertail Coverts: white

Back: gray-brown

Wings: gray-brown

Underwings: _____

Rump: gray-brown

Uppertail Coverts: gray-brown

Upper Side of Tail: gray-brown

Under Side of Tail: _____

Shape of Tail: emarginate

Voice: _____

Behavior: kept near to ground at all times

Habitat: riparian wood

Prior Experience with this Species: seen previously only in Colo

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Juncos has buff, eye-ringing check + breast. Hermit has red tail. Vireo has towery wash in breast.

This Report was written From: Notes made during _____ after observation; Memory

Signed: Steve Simon Street Address: 9995 Eagle Way #7

Date Prepared: 5-18-75 Town and State: Boulder Colo ZIP: 80501

face: definite gray cheek strong malar stripe

halymus

Species: Gray-cheeked Thrush (Vernacular Name) Catharus minimus (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 11 May 1975 Time Bird Seen: ~ 0930 to 0932

Locality: Bonny Dam State Park

Nearest Town: Hale County: Yuma

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Robert Andrews</u>		
<u>Steve Larson</u>		

Optical Equipment: 10x50 binocs
Light Conditions: good - light shade plus diffuse sunlight
Distance from Bird (how measured): 30' (guess)

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: - Plumage: -
Overall Appearance and Size: an obvious Catharus which appeared darker than Swainson's even to the nalled eye

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): typical Catharus; perhaps some pale on basal portion of lower mandible
 Legs (shape and color): not noted
 Crown and Forehead: Brownish-gray
 Nape: brownish gray
 Breast and Sides: Blackish spots (prominent) on grayish-white background
 Belly and Flanks: Whitish; gray flanks
 Undertail Coverts: whitish
 Back: brownish-gray
 Wings: brownish-gray
 Underwings: not seen
 Rump: brownish-gray
 Upper Side of Tail: brownish gray - same color as back
 Under Side of Tail: not seen
 Shape of Tail: same as Swainson's
 Voice: silent

Face: solid grayish - no buffiness or eye-rings (clearly and repeatedly noted by all those observers)
 Throat: whitish bordered by conspicuous dark inner throat
 Eye (color): dark

Behavior: Perching 1-3' above ground in dense thicket of small cottonwoods and willows as we flushed it in front of us

Habitat: dense cottonwood-willow thickets along ~~SE~~ ^{south} edge of the reservoir

Prior Experience with this Species: Once in Mass. in 1967. I just recently (April) was involved in a controversy over a photograph of a putative Gray-cheeked in California and in the process, examined ~ 125 Gray-cheeked specimens, 200 Hermit specimens, and 100 Swainson's specimens at MVZ and Calif. Academy of Sciences and so I am very familiar with what to look for. Extremely familiar with Swainson's and Hermits in field - we'd examined 20+ Swainson's very closely on May 11 alone.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? (1) Swainson's - no eye this bird had absolutely no trace of any eye-ring, buffiness above eye, buffy cheek, or buffy sides; it was also overall much darker and grayer - no "warm" brown tones like most Swainson's. We looked very closely at 26 Swainson's Thrushes that day and so were very familiar with the detailed appearance of that bird. (2) Hermit (Calif. races have which has nearly identical face and breast pattern to Gray-cheeked) - our bird had no trace of any reddish in tail, rump, or wings and had a longer tail and a generally larger body side than Hermit.

This Report was written From: Notes made during after observation; Memory

Signed: Van Patten Street Address: Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Univ. of Calif.
Date Prepared: 12 May 1975 Town and State: Berkeley, Calif. ZIP: 94720

Return to: JACK PERRILL 1150 G... Street Berkeley, Calif. 94720