

Species: GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH Catharus minimus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 16, 1976 Time Bird Seen: 14:30 to 14:50
Locality: Crow Valley Park
Nearest Town: Briggsdale County: Weld

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Linda Lybarger</u>	<u>2455 Douglas Hwy Aurora Colo 80013</u>	<u>951545</u>

Optical Equipment: Kodak 10x50
If photographed, type of equipment used: NA
Light Conditions: Good - some light clouds
Distance from bird (how measured): 80 to 85 ft, Est.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: unk Plumage: Spring

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

*Typical thrush-like behavior. Feeding with a flock of Swainsons
Flashes that also contained a Veery and a Hermit Thrush.*

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern.
Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks
you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions
is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

*THRUSH sized with typical thrush bill, medium short tail. Uniform
olive gray above, no eye ring, no buffy on head, throat or breast.
NO red on tail or head. Check patch not noticeably different from
rest of head. Breast spotting appeared blurry and not as strong
as Swainsons or Hermit.*

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

None heard

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Willow and Cottonwood trees in a creek bottom on the plains.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Hermit has red tail, this bird having red on back & elsewhere.
~~A Hermit~~ A Hermit Thrush was seen in the flock so a comparison was possible. When the Gray checked and a Swainson's Thrush were within the field of view a detailed comparison was possible. The Gray checked did not have any buff on the head, throat or breast, no eye ring and the cheek patch did not contrast like the Swainson's. Also the spotting on the breast was faint and appeared smeared or blurry compared to the Swainson's.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

This was my second sighting of the Gray checked THRUSH (both this Spring). All other thrushes have been observed, particularly the Hermit and Swainson's.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

None.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory

PRINT NAME: William A Lybarger SIGNATURE: William A Lybarger DATE: 26 June 74
Street Address: 2415 S. Memphis Way Town and State: Parsons, Colo ZIP: 80013

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110