

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

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

Date(s): 13 May 1993

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: adult

Locality: Waneka Lake Elevation: 5237 ft

Nearest town: Lafayette, County: Boulder

Time(s) observed: 1435-1455

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 20 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
NONE

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)
unknown

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
The sky was clear but the bird was near the ground in the shade. The light was strong enough that shadows were minimal, but soft enough so the bird was never silhouetted
Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Jason 10x40 binoculars; close enough no binos used at times

Distance, and how measured: 8-15 ft. Measured by pacing.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: N/A

Who else photographed the bird? N/A

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):
The bird was foraging near the ground. It also was away from cover for about 20 seconds on a muddy lake shore. It was not nervous acting and allowed close approach. It had a habit of turning its back to me. It didn't flick or raise its tail like Hermit Thrushes normally do. It was silent during my observations. At one time I saw the bird capture and eat what appeared to be a lacewing near the ground.

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

The bird had a uniform gray-brown color on its back and tail. There was no hint of reds, rufous or yellow. The bill was longer in appearance. The bird had no eyering and its dark eyes appeared rather small. The lore was gray, contrasting with the darker plumage around it on top of the head. The suborbital area was also gray. The bird was white below. The breast spots extended nearly to the flanks. They were close together, large and distinct. They weren't melted together at all. The legs were pink. The tail was squared and the same color as the bird's back. The bill was black except for a light frise on the lower mandible.

Description (continued):

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Silent

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

The area was deciduous riparian forest. It was on a drive between Wanenka Lake and the pond to the north. It was foraging in leaves under felled branches

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The bird had no eyering so I eliminated Swainson's Thrush. Because of the uniform color between the back and tail I eliminated Hermit Thrush. Hermit Thrush also pump tails when perched and this bird did not. Lack of an eyering and no reddish coloration led me to eliminate Wood Thrush and the C.F. fuscescens race of Veery and again, all races of Hermit Thrush. Because the bird's spots were dense, big and distinct I eliminated Veery (C.F. Salicicola). The spots extended further onto flank and were larger than Veery's

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I've seen lots of Hermit Thrushes at Pingree Park (near Rustic) in Colorado. I've studied lots of Swainson's Thrushes in migration in Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma. In fact I watched Swainson's Thrushes nearby this Gray-checked Thrush. I've seen many Wood Thrush and Veery in South-central Nebraska.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: National Geographic Society Field Guide

b) after observation: Peterson East and West Field Guides, Audubon Society Field Guides, Birds of Kansas Volume II by C. Ely

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: 13 May 1993 2100

Reporting observer: David C. Ely Signature: David C. Ely

Address: 4501 E. Boardwalk Drive #L-2, Ft. Collins, CO 80525

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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