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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
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 17 May '93Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: AdultLat/long: 5 Distribution Code: U-R Habitat Code: RpLLocality: Crow Valley Campground Elevation: 4500' (?)Nearest town: Briggsdale County: WeldTime(s) observed: 17 May '93 between 12 noon & 1:30 PDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 3 times (largest 3 minutes)

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

<u>Joe Mammoxer</u>	<u>221-6129 (W)</u>	<u>(Both Ft Collins)</u>	<u>491-6303 (W)</u>
	<u>223-2187 (H)</u>	<u>Mike Schonaker</u>	

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

?

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

light was heavy overcast, midday (flat) best view was with bird
nw of me

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x50 binocs (Nikon)Distance and how measured: Closest view was ~ 12-15'If photographed, type of equipment and film: 300 mm Tokina Zoom telephoto
on Minolta SRT-II body (Kodacolor Gold 200 ASA print film)Who else photographed the bird: Nobody?Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): Typical Thrush - now you see it, now you don't. Seen perched on ground & in trees (lower branches of both honey locust & peachleaf willow)
Seen briefly on the ground in ditch that runs along the east edge of southwest corner of campground-park.

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 observed in the field:

No contrast in color of head, back & tail - all medium brown. No eye-ring.Eye black on dark head. Area of auriculars grayish but not so much that

Description (continued): The gray contrasted strongly @ rest of brown head.
Spotting heavy (some larger spots ~~sterron-shaped~~) on upper breast & blackish.
Did not extend much below mid-line of belly. Gray flanks. white throat.
gray-white lower belly & undertail coverts. Did not cock tail. Grayish lores.

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

Bird was uttering a call note but none of us could make it out due to
loud northern orioles in area.

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

Dense thicket of wild rose, willow, and currant interspersed by
few mature junipers, Siberian elms, ^{larger} willows & cottonwoods. SW corner of
campground area

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Heavy black spotting on upper breast was unlike sparse, faint spotting of brown-

race of Veery. Lack of contrast between back & tail plus no tail cocking eliminated
hermit thrush. No eye-ring or buff on face eliminated Swainson's Thrush. ^{Brown color} eliminated
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? ^{the rusty} wood thrush.

Have seen many gray-checks when I lived in east 20+ years ago.

Lots of experience with other thrushes in CO & during spring visits to Ohio ('92; '93)

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

a) At time of observation: None

b) After observation: Std. field guides. Bird we saw very similar to photo
in eastern Audubon Field Guide.

This report was written from reports made during X, after
observation X, from memory X

Date and time report was written: 18 May '93

Reporting observer: David Leatherman Signature: Dave Leatherman

Address: 2048 Whiterock Ct., Ft. Collins, CO 80526

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205