

44-96-60

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COLORADO
RARITY REPORT FORM

Common Name: Gray-cheeked Thrush **Scientific Name:** *Catharus minimus*

Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex:** ? **Age:** Adult

Locality: Colorado: Lincoln County; 3V road 1 mile east of Highway 71.

Date(s) seen: May 27, 1996 **Time:** 10:15-10:35 a.m.

Reporting Observer: Christopher L. Wood, 600 Campus Dr. Unit # 744, Ripon, Wisconsin 54971. (414) 748-7641

Other Observers: Russ Wood

Light Conditions: Very good lighting conditions; cloudy sky.

Optical Equipment: Bausch & Lomb "Elite" 8x42,

Distance to bird: 10-15 feet **Duration of Observation:** 20 minutes.

Habitat: "Migrant Trap" composed mainly of low shrubs and small cottonwoods.

Behavior: We were moving through a small group of migrant landbirds when we flushed this bird and 2 Swainson's Thrushes (*Catharus ustulatus*) into some low dead branches of a cottonwood. Here we had direct comparisons with Swainson's Thrushes. It then flew into a small willow where there was a Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*), a Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) and another Swainson's Thrush. All remained in the same area for about ten minutes without moving much.

Description: Same general size and shape as a Swainson's Thrush. Gray-brown above; a bit colder above than coloration of the upperparts of Swainson's Thrush. Very inconspicuous narrow eyering without buff. Underparts white with dark conspicuous spotting on breast, lacking buff on breast. Flanks grayish, vent white. Bill mostly dark becoming fleshy at base of lower mandible. Eye dark, legs pink.

Voice: None heard.

Similar Species:

Hermit Thrush always has at least some reddish on tail and whitish eyering that is more conspicuous. Even the darker western Veeries have more buffy breast and upperparts, spotting on breast is more limited and not as dark, and each individual spot is smaller. Swainson's Thrush shows buffy breast, buffy lores and a very conspicuous buff eyering. Silent Bicknell's Thrush is probably unidentifiable in the field from GCTH, but as this species is not even common within its New England range, the chances of occurrence in Colorado are extremely remote.

Description from: ___ Contemporaneous notes; X Later Notes; ___ Memory.

Experience with this and similar species: I have seen GCTH in Alaska, and many more

in Wisconsin where they are a fairly common spring and fall migrant. I have also seen thousands of Swainson's Thrushes, hundreds of Hermit Thrushes, and more than 100 Veery. I also had direct comparison with SWTH, HETH, and Veery.

Are you positive of the identification? : Yes

Signature: Christopher L. Wolf

Date: August 18, 1996