

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: Wood Thrush (Vernacular Name) *Hylocichla ustulata* (Scientific Name) 2. Number: 1
3. Location: 106 1/2 Easter Hill Dr - Grand Junction, Colo 81501 -
4. Date(s): Sept 13 - '72 - 5. Time bird seen: 9 AM to noon -
Sept 15 - '72
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):
As seen in the field the bird had large round breast spots over breast - completely covering it & stretching the length of the flanks - larger than the Hermit Thrush which I am very familiar with. Sings bill - white eye - ring - light colored yellowish legs - Only once did I see a brownish cast on the head & back - The bird did fly up in a bush but the back was not known in this light it was ^{dark} grey -
7. Description of voice, if heard: no voice was heard -
8. Description of behavior: The bird was eating berries of cottonwood that had fallen to the ground - also honey suckle bush berries low to the ground -
9. Habitat--general: Colorado River Valley - just at the edge of the pinon zone -
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain: I am familiar with Swainson's Thrush which I eliminated because this bird had such a heavily spotted breast -
11. Distance (how measured?): 20' - 25' - by the eye -
12. Optical equipment: Wicon 7x35 7.3 - J87
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer): Sunny day but the bird was mostly feeding under the shrubs - indirect light -
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: no previous experience -
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare? - The extremely heavy spotting on the breast -
16. Other observers: Mrs. Charles Traylor (Helen)
17. Did others agree with your identification? Yes -
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: no others -
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: Roger Troy Peterson, Field Guide to Western Birds. Birds of North America - Chandler, Robbins, Brown & Zinn - Life History of N. American Thrushes, King et al - 13 sent -
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:
Hand book of birds of the Western U.S. - Florence Merriam Bailey -
Street Address: _____

Signature

Date Prepared: Larry F. Elder City and State: 106 1/2 Easter Hill Dr, Grand Junction, Colo 81501
(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)

Dear Mr. Ringberg:-

I tried to get Lorna Gustafson on the phone to come & help identify this bird but she was not at home. I believe Traylor is a reliable bird observer. The bird was very accommodating & let us watch for a long time while he ate under the bushes. On pg. 468 of Florence Merriam Bailey's book it says "Upper Parts and cheeks dark gray. Migrant in Rocky Mountains". We wondered if this might be a female in full plumage. It did not have brown on the head. Bailey's book is now out of print. She gives very full descriptions of birds & their habits. My edition is 1935.

I do not remember detailed description of the cheeks of the bird. Whatever the bird was, it was interesting & very different & the first thing you noted without binoculars was the heavily spotted breast - big spots -

A young man from the East (where the Wood Thrush is common) discussed the bird with me. He did not see it - but said it couldn't possibly be a Wood Thrush if there was no brown on the head -

Very sincerely -

Ray F. Ell -

We are having more birds at the feeders than usual. The snow is deep on Grand Island & they have come down to the Valley. I have never had in my yard before this much - the Steller Jay - Clark's Nutcracker & Scrub Jay - ^{also} dozens of White-throated Sparrows - all three species of juncos, Cassins & House Finches. West. Chickadee - Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Bewick Wren. They are eating me out of house & home -