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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: Wood Thrush | Hylocichia ustulata
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date: May 17 1987Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: BreedingLocality: below the dam at Bonny Reservoir Elevation: 3660' ±Nearest town: Idalia County: YumaTime observed: 12:30 PM (noon time)Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 15 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)

None

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

Good. The bird was partly in the shade but it moved around a lot.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7X binocularsDistance, and how measured: In trees at first 500'. Taking bath 75' est.If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

When I first saw the bird it was about 30' off the ground in a medium-sized tree. When it saw me it flew off into large cottonwoods about 100' off the ground. Fortunately it spied a small pool of water where it could take a bath, so I could get fairly close.

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:

A thrush but slightly larger and plumper than the Swainson's Thrushes I had been seeing. When I first saw the bird I could see only the upper back and head. I was struck by the bright reddish brown on the top of the head which made me think of a Green-tailed Towhee. I caught a glimpse of large spots but thought it might be a Hermit Th.

OVER

Description (continued): Only after it dropped down on the ground to take a bath could I see the tail which was olive gray (National Geographic says brownish-olive - I saw no brown on the tail.) The breast spots were larger but not as large as National Geographic shows. The eye-ring was not nearly as prominent as National Geographic but the legs were dark pink as in National Geographic - not like the pale pink in the Golden Guide. The wings and back were solid olive brown. ~~There~~ There were no wing bars. The nape of the neck was reddish brown but not as bright as the cap.

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

Only a few, very faint notes while cleaning off from bath.

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

There is a large, open wood plot on the north side below the Bonny dam which is damp and open like eastern U.S. woods.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

This was not a Hermit Thrush because it had an olive tail

This was not a Swainson's or Gray-cheeked Thrush because it had a reddish-brown

This was not a Veery because it was a larger bird and had large spots on its breast. This was not a Brown Thrasher because it had round spots on its breast, dark eyes, no wing bars, and a short tail.

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

I saw many Wood Thrushes in New England many years ago but I don't remember them having quite such a strong red on the head.

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

a) at time of observation: Golden Guide + National Geographic

b) after observation: None

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory ☒
Date and time report was written: May 18, 1987

Reporting observer: L. W. Dan Bridges Signature: L. W. Dan Bridges

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