

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

ACCEPT 7-0

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X

Rcd 1/5/00 wpl

Species: Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)**Date:** 10 May 1999**Number seen:** one**Sex:** unknown**Plumage:** Basic**Locality:** Two Buttes SWA**Elevation:** about 4240'**Nearest town:** Springfield**County:** Baca**Time observed:** about 10:20 - 10:22 MDT**Duration of observation:** about 2 minutes

Description: While looking through the large woodlot at the northwest corner of Two Buttes Reservoir (barely in Baca Co.) for nesting Great Blue Herons, I was walking along a ditch from which quite a few birds were flushing, mostly sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a much larger bird fly up and land on a branch about 0.5 m off the ground. I thought that it was going to be an Am. Robin. The bird was perched in such a way that I could only see its breast. But, what I saw - a white breast, with large, roundish, black spots - immediately made me know that the bird was a Wood Thrush (WOTH). I knew that I had to see it better if I was going to report such a goodie, so spent a bit of time trying to ease into a better viewing location. I did so and watched it for about two minutes through a couple of perch changes before I finally lost it.

The bird was obviously a large, brown thrush with a very rufous crown and nape. The face was whitish with thin, black horizontal streaks behind and below the eyes. The lores were unmarked and there was a thin, but obvious nearly-complete white ring around each eye; the eyes were dark. The chin and throat were white and unmarked. The bill was bicolored black distally and yellowish proximally. I didn't notice a well-defined malar stripe, but I didn't particularly look for it. What little I could see of the upperparts every time the bird was perched was the same color as the nape. In flight, the back looked strongly rusty-orange without any strong contrast with the tail. The underparts were white without any suffusion of color as is present on most individuals of all of the North American *Catharus* thrushes. On the underparts were scattered relatively large, blackish spots - with more spotting on the chest than on the sides and flanks; the belly and vent were unspotted.

Similar species: All *Catharus* thrushes are easily eliminated by the size, face pattern, underparts pattern, and overall coloration. The most similar *Catharus* in upperparts coloration, Veery, has the least, most insignificant spotting below. The most similar species structurally, Am. Robin, is easily ruled out by overall coloration (even juveniles). Brown Thrasher (and Long-billed Thrasher) is eliminated by the lack of a long tail, face pattern, underparts pattern, and eye color.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): none

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen 100s of Wood Thrushes and 100s to 1000s of the other North American brown thrushes. I have also seen 1000s of Brown Thrashers and 10s of Long-billed Thrashers.

Light conditions: sun behind me

Optical equipment used: Zeiss 7x42

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest distance was about 10 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: none

Other observers who saw the bird independently: none

If photographed, type of equipment and film: I could have photographed it had I had my camera with me at the time.

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature:



Address: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: This report was written on 3 December 1999 with reference to field notes I took immediately after the sighting.