

1999 - 118

CFO-ORC FILE #

ACCEPT 7-0

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☐

bcd 6/1/99 wpl

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: wood thrush | Hylocichla mustelina
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 5/16 & 5/17/99Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: adultLocality: Poudre River Bike Trail 0.5 miles w of Prospect Elevation: 5000'Nearest town: Fort Collins County: LarimerTime(s) observed: 5/16 : 10:20 AM, 11 AM 5/17: 12:30 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 5/16 : 10 minutes 5/17: 5 minutes

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

Charlotte Leatherman
(my mother)

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

Bill Lisovsky & Joe Mammosev

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

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8x42 Swift UprightDistance, and how measured: 5' to 30 yards

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):

mostly perched down underneath lower branches and dead branches of a boxelder. Ticked. About once every few minutes, it would sing a short phrase, half-hearted. Song is what first drew our attention.

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:

Large, upright thrush, reddish brown on upper parts. Cap especially bright rusty, nape & upper back also rusty. Lower back & tail brown with hint of rusty brown. Obvious eye-ring - more so than Swainson's Thrush, less obvious than Connecticut warbler. Underparts bright white marked with large blackish-brown dots throughout breast, belly & flanks. Legs orange. Bill mostly gray. Eye dark. Bill a little thicker than typical Catbirds Thrushes.

Description (continued):

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

Teute-like, short phrase, on one occasion.
heard phrase of 5 notes followed by trill, given
down under boxelder Ticker

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

Boxelder Ticker next to a swampy ditch, within
general riparian woodlands along Poudre River

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Large size, rusty head & upper back, white breast
with big spots, bright eyeing — all different
than rusty Veery (*puscescens*). Song immediately
recognizable (by me & my mom, who grew up with it)
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? in Vermont
Perhaps the most common Thrush in the East, where
I grew up. I have seen ~100 Veery's in my life.
I have heard many wood Thrushes, several Veeries.

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: 5/17/99

Reporting observer: David Leatherman Signature: David Leatherman

Address: 612 Stover St #7 Ft Collins CO 80524

1999-118

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

Red 1/20/00 upl

WOOD THRUSH
Hylocichla mustelina

Location: Ft. Collins along the Poudre River, Larimer County, Colorado

Date: May 20-21, 1999

Setting:

This bird was found by others, prior to this date and was seen by others after these dates. I am not sure of the inclusive dates. It was seen by many birders, including about 20 on the morning of the 21st (CFO field trip). On the 20th I saw it alone at 1:00 - 1:10 p.m. and with Brandon Percival about 5:00 p.m. The bird was very secretive, staying in a heavy shrub along an irrigation canal. If patient, the bird would sometimes hop into clear view. We observed it with binoculars at about 20-50 feet distance. It sang a clear, ringing, "flute-y" song, sometimes giving the song very softly, other times singing it so loudly that it could be clearly heard at quite a distance. It also gave a dry "churr" note. We saw it in bright sunlight.

Description:

The bird was an adult in breeding plumage. It was a large thrush, about 8-9" long, nearly the size of an American Robin. It had an upright posture and long bright pink feet and legs that it perched up high on. It was a plump, quite short-tailed bird and gave a rounded "chesty" appearance. The bill was medium-large, stout, straight, blunt, and gray with a pinkish-yellow lower mandible. The entire uppersides were an even, unmarked reddish-brown, brightest and orange on the nape, back and wings and dullest, almost gray-brown, on the rump and tail. It lacked wingbars. The undersides were pure white with extensive, heavy blackish spotting on the chest and lower breast. There was a white eyering and pale lores. The face was mottled blackish. The eye was black.

Similar Species:

Only the other Catharus thrushes are at all similar. All are smaller and slimmer. The eastern Veery is less bright cinnamon above, lacks the eyering and black face and has very light breast spotting. The Hermit Thrush is redder at the rear end, not the front end, lacks the heavy black spots and black face. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes are much grayer, lack the strong eyering, black face and heavy black breast spotting. The Brown Thrasher is longer, slimmer with a long, not short, tail, has white wingbars and a curved, not straight, bill.

Experience with Species:

I have seen Wood Thrushes in Texas, two in Colorado.

This report is prepared from notes made during and after observation.

Mark Janos
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Pueblo, CO 81001

