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CBRC FILE #: 2003-10

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD X

Species: Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)

Date(s): 26 October 2002.

Number seen: one.

Sex: unknown.

Plumage: not sure.

Locality: Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement.

Elevation: unknown.

Nearest town: Fort Lyon.

County: Bent.

Time observed: 9am to 945am.

Duration of observation: 10 minutes, off and on.

Description (including, habitats, and behaviors): Ken Hollinga and I were birding at the Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, which is a large wood lot in southeastern Colorado. Just west of the "Tornado grove", I saw a thrush like bird on the ground. I quickly realized it was a Wood Thrush, with the bright reddish brown back and tail, and black spots all over the white underparts. I called over Ken, and he was also able to see the bird. We watched it for several minutes as it fed on the ground. The bird stayed on the ground or on a log above the ground the entire time we watched it.

The shape of the bird was a medium sized songbird, and shaped like a robin. The bird had a reddish-brown forehead, nape, back, wings, and tail. The eyes were dark. Both eyes showed a white ring around them. The face patch color was dark, with dark streaks. The bill was thick and fairly short, and was pale in color and not curved down at the tip, like thrashers. The under parts were white with black spots that were large and round, going down through from the chin, breast, flanks, sides, and belly. The under tail coverts were more all white. The legs were thin and long for a songbird, and were pink in color. The tail was short, like a thrush and not longer like a thrasher. The wing tips were shorter than the tail.

Similar species eliminated:

Brown Thrashers are longer tailed, with a curved bill. Nothing else has the same color as a Wood Thrush.

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

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

I've seen Wood Thrushes several times in Colorado, one at Fort Lyon, one at Lake Henry, one at Ft. Collins. Also, I have seen them in other states, which includes Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Missouri. I've seen lots of Brown Thrashers in Colorado and other states to the east.

Light conditions:

Excellent light, the sun was to east, bird to the west of the observer.

Optical equipment used:

I used 10x42 binoculars.

Distance and how estimated:

The bird was only 15 to 20 feet away, in the open giving great views.

Other observers who saw the bird with you:

Ken Hollinga from Virginia, who see them in his yard.

Other observers who saw the bird independently:

No other observers, as far as I know.

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

Not photographed.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, ect. Consulted and how this influenced your identification:

None needed.

a) at time of observation: none b) after observation: none

This report is from notes made from (check one) ___ noted made during observation X noted made after observation ___ later from memory.

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival

Signature: *Brandon K. Percival*

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Report finished: 2/12/03 7:56 PM