

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH

Catharus minimus 1998-107

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

rec'd 7-8-98

ACCEPTED (1-05)

DATE OF OBSERVATION	TIME OF OBSERVATION	NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN	SEX	PLUMAGE
May 19, 1998	1100 TO 1120 MDT	One	Unknown	Adult
	TO			
	TO			

LOCALITY: Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grassland, Briggsdale, ColoradoELEVATION: 4840' COUNTY: Weld

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD (Names, Addresses, Telephone Number):

Dr. Ted Cooper - 9400 East Maplewood Ave., Englewood, CO 80111

Joe Himmel - 1848 14th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: 9.5 X 44 Celestron BinocularsWEATHER CONDITIONS: Partly Cloudy; 60°; Wind: SW 10-15MPHBIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: Not a factorDISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 75' to 100'; estimated

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: Alternately hopped about on the ground picking up bits of food, then flying into the low branches of nearby willows to return sharply to the ground to resume feeding activity.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (EMPHASIS ON KEY FIELD MARKS): Relative size and shape; plumage and color pattern of head, upperparts and underparts; shape and color of bill, wings, tail, feet and legs; eye color.

Upperparts dark olive; Underparts white, heavily spotted on breast and sides of neck with dark brown and black. Flanks grayish; Sides of head and neck gray. Narrow grayish-white, indistinct eye ring. Small, slender bill; Legs and feet pale.

HABITAT: Damp earth spotted with occasional clumps of short grasses and nearby willow clusters in a deciduous woodland.

VOCALIZATION (call/song; how delivered-perched, in flight; frequency; duration):

None heard

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

HERMIT THRUSH (Catharus guttatus): Above dark olive, except tail and rump, which are bright rufous in distinct contrast with back; below white with distinct dark brown spots on breast; occasionally raises tail slowly when perched or at arriving at perch.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (Catharus ustulatus): Dark olive above including upper tail. Breast, throat and sides of head buffy; breast with rounded black spots and the sides of throat with wedge-shaped black spots; a distinct buffy-lyl ring giving a prominent spectacled appearance.

VEERY (Catharus fuscescens): Plain olive-rufous above uniformly across back and tail. Breast and sides of throat pale buffy with poorly defined spots of brown; no distinct eye-ring. (western race has more spotting on breast than eastern form).

WOOD THRUSH (Hylocichla mustelina): Above bright rufous; large round, dark spots on breast; white throat and belly; bold white eye-ring.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES: white breast; Bold white eye-ring.
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: Seen less than 10 times over 30 years in Colorado. Seen commonly in Alaska during 4 trips there; also seen in northern Illinois in the 1940's and occasionally on Long Island, NY during the 1950's. NOTE: Have seen BICKNELL'S THRUSH (Catharus bicknelli) in the Adirondack Mountains of Upstate NY where it breeds (1950's).

HERMIT THRUSH: Seen commonly throughout most of North America since 1940's

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: Very common in Colorado during migration; also seen in Northern Illinois, Long Island, NY, Canada (primarily in the Maritimes);

VEERY: Seen occasionally, mostly during Spring migration in Colorado; also seen in North Dakota, Minnesota and Michigan on breeding grounds and during migration east of the Mississippi

WOOD THRUSH: Seen commonly in Illinois, New York, North Carolina during past 60+ years.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT: Never seen in Colorado.

Field Guide to the Birds of North America (National Geographic).

The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding (3)

Personal field notes taken in Alaska (1985, 1988, 1992, 1993)

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ AFTER ☒ OBSERVATION; FROM MEMORY ☐

NAME: JACK REDDALL

SIGNATURE: Jack Reddall

DATE: May 23, 1998