

1999 - 116

CFO-ORC FILE #

ACCEPT 7-0

Recd 6/1/99 (3 photos)

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Gray-cheeked Thrush | Catharus minimus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 17 May 1999Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: adultLocality: Poudre River Trail, 0.6 miles n of Prospect Elevation: 5000'Nearest town: Ft Collins County: LarimerTime(s) observed: 1:15 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): ~ 1 hour

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

Bill Lisowsky

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

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

Both shade & full sunlight, all directions in relation to sunOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8x42 Swift UltralightsDistance, and how measured: 10-40 yardsIf photographed, type of equipment and film: 100-300 Tokina telephoto, Gold 100 Print filmWho else photographed the bird? —

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

mostly feeding on ground, occasionally perched in trees (up to 6' high), on dead logs/branches, shrubs. Typical thrush behavior - sporadic quick movement following periods of motionless. Usually perched with back toward the observer.

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:

Upper parts mostly dark brown with slight reddish tinge to the tail. No apparent eye-ring or buff coloration on face. Side of face and eye ring medium gray. Under parts light gray, flanks medium gray. Dark brown spots concentrated on throat and upper breast. Eye black. Belly and undertail devoid of markings (solid light gray). Did not notice leg color. Bill with dark tip; upper mandible mostly dark. Lower mandible pale orange-pink, esp. at base. Usually held bill angled upwards (like Red-throated Loon). Bill seemed slightly longer than Swainson's and more down-curved at tip. Hard to describe but the big angle & shape plus dark eye on gray cheek gave this thrush a different facial expression.

Description (continued):

Not overly wary. Usually flew about 20 yds. when I approached to about 10 yds. In the company (most of the time) of two Swainson's Thrushes.

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

Did not hear it make any sound.

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

Open grown woodland along Poudre River, lots of dead woody debris, leafy spurge, cottonwood, boxelder, willow. How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? overstory.

Gray face and color of upper parts could only be confused with dark Veery (*Salicivora*). Contrasting "red" tail and brown back. Long up-curved bill with slight tip down curve, bright orange-pink lower mandible base all unlike Veery.

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

I had only seen one Gray-cheek (that I was certain of) in Colorado prior to this. I have seen ~100 in the East. I have seen 1000's of Swainson's, hundreds of Hermits, ~100 Veery's.

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: Nat'l. Geo., Audubon Masterguide, Birds of Europe

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory ☒ Date and time report was written: 17 May 1985 10 PM

Reporting observer: David Leatherman Signature: David Leatherman

Address: 612 Stover St #7, Ft Collins CO 80524



Gray-checked Thrush
Powder River Trail
G-spot
17 May 1999

Photo by D. Leatherman

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Gray-cheeked Thrush
Poudre River Trail
G-spot
17 May 1999

photo by D. Leatherman

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Gray checked Thrush

Poudre River Trail

G-spot

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