

## 2002-126

CFO-RC FILE X:

## RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Gray - cheeked Thrush (Scientific Name) *Catharus minimus*

Date(s) of occurrence: May 12 2002

Number of birds seen: one Sex: ? Plumage: basic

Exact location: Crow Valley Campground

County: Weld Nearest town: Briggsdale Elevation: 4840'

Length of observation: 2 minutes Time(s) of observation: ~ 9:15 am

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: none

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): none

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: overcast, winds light from the south

Optical equipment used: Ziess 10x40

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): ~ 40 feet

Was bird(s) photographed? no If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Riparian (dry) area in the middle of the Pawnee Nat. Grasslands.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The bird was observed foraging on the ground and then flushed and flew to heavy undergrowth.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

The bird was a *Catharus* type thrush. My first overall impression was that this olive-brown bird lacked any red in the tail. The bird's crown, back, rump, tail and wings were a dull olive-brown. The wing tips were slightly darker than the rest of the bird and had no markings. The bill was two tone, black at the tip and orangish-yellow at the base. The eye was dark. The lores were a lighter gray than the auriculars which were a cold gray finely streaked and bordered with a plain light gray. No eye ring was noted, however, the posterior aspect of the eye was plain light gray. A dark brown malar stripe extended on to the sides of the neck becoming spots on the breast. The chin was an off white color. The breast was a light brown color heavily spotted with dark brown. The flanks were a plain brown-gray, the belly and undertail coverts were off-white in color. The legs were light in color.

Describe bird's call or song: none heard

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: The lack of an eye-ring and color eliminate Swainson's Thrush and Veery. I felt this was not an interior race of Hermit Thrush because of the lack of any reddish tones in the tail and the wings, the continuation of the back color on to the tail without any color change, the lack of any eye-ring, and the color difference between the auriculars and the crown, nape and neck. Bicknell's Thrush was not ruled out because no calls were heard, however, Bicknell's Thrush is not likely in Colorado.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen some birds in migration the past few years.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): Sibley Guide to Birds 2000

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later x from memory

Date of written report: May 24 2002

Reporting observer: Signature: Ric Olson 9450 N Heather Dr Castle Rock Co 80104 303-790-7753