

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*

Though it breeds far to the west of the longitude of California, even into northeastern Siberia, the Gray-cheeked Thrush passes far to the east of the state on its way to and from a winter range in South America. It is only a casual vagrant to California, largely in fall from mid September to late October. Thrushes of the genus *Catharus* are less susceptible to errors of navigation than most other long-distance migrants.

Migration: The three records of the Gray-cheeked Thrush in San Diego County are all from Point Loma (S7): 1 October 1986 (R. E. Webster, Langham 1991), 2–10 October 1987 (G. McCaskie, Roberson 1993), 10–11 September 1990 (V. P. Johnson, Heindel and Garrett 1995). Though none is supported by a specimen, the second and third birds were photographed, and the third was trapped and examined in hand.



Photo by Anthony Mercieca