

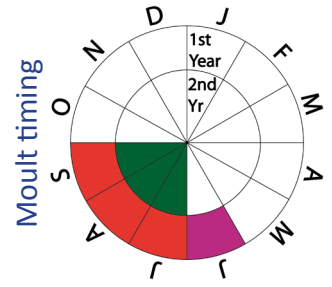
Swainson's Thrush

Catharus ustulatus

Account #: 8365



Species code: SWTH
 Band size: 1B
 Skull: 1 Nov (Small windows may remain indefinitely)
 Pyle: p397
 Sibley: p407



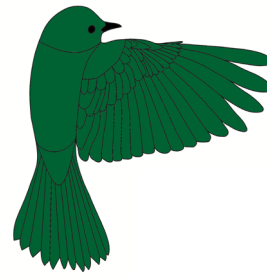
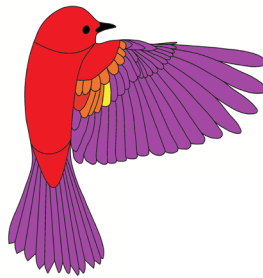
Moult

Juvenile	95%	50%	5%
Formative			
Basic			
Alternate			

likelihood moulted
 10 primaries (10th reduced)
 9 secondaries
 12 tail feathers

Formative
 ♂ ★★★★★☆
 ♀ ★★★★★☆

Definitive Basic
 ♂ ★★★★★☆
 ♀ ★★★★★☆



Juvenile plumage is distinctive. Formative and basic plumages are very similar. The absence of moult limits is not easily discerned.

Ageing

♀ ★★★★★☆

♂ ★★★★★☆

Use moult limits to separate formative plumage from basic plumage. Tail shape may be reliable in some cases, but intermediates occur. P10 length may also be useful.

Moult limit

Juvenile feathers among the greater coverts typically have buffy tips. Spots are generally larger on the innermost feathers. Spots become more subtle and may disappear when feathers are worn.

Formative



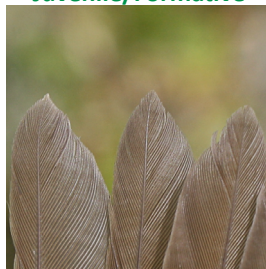
Basic



Tail Shape

The angle of the feather tip differs.
 Formative = 88° angle
 Basic = 109° angle

Juvenile/Formative



Basic



Worn feathers may be misleading.

Sexing

Juvenile ☆☆☆☆☆

Formative ☆☆☆☆☆

Basic ☆☆☆☆☆

No known plumage methods. During the breeding season cloacal protuberance and brood patch are well developed.

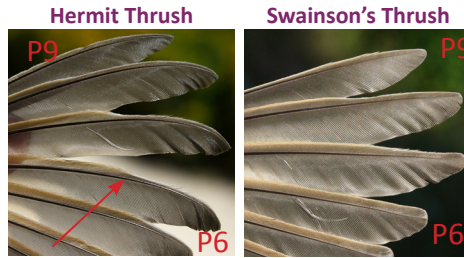


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Identification Similar species: Hermit Thrush, Grey-cheeked Thrush, Bicknell's Thrush & Veery.

P6 emargination

- Swainson's - No emargination
- Hermit - Emarginated
- Grey-cheeked - Often emarginated
- Veery - Slight emargination



Wing Formula

Hermit: $P9 < P6$, Swainson's, Grey-cheeked & Veery: $P9 > P6$

Back vs Tail colour

- Swainson's - No contrast
- Hermit - Tail colour contrasts with back colour.
- Grey-cheeked - No contrast
- Veery - No contrast



Eye ring

- Swainson's - Buffy
- Hermit - White
- Grey-cheeked - Indistinct, white
- Veery - Indistinct, greyish

