

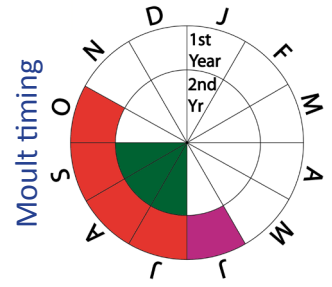
# Hermit Thrush

*Catharus guttatus*

Account #: 8366



Species code: HETH  
 Band size: 1B  
 Skull: 15 Nov (Small windows may remain indefinitely)  
 Pyle: p399  
 Sibley: p409

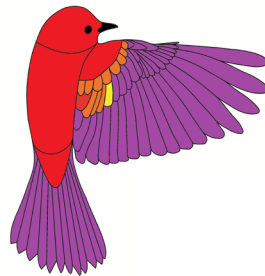


## Moult

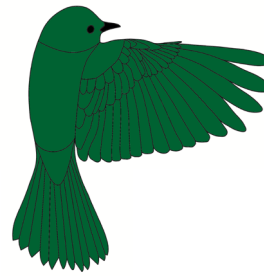
Juvenile	95%	50%	5%
Formative			
Basic			
Alternate			

likelihood moulted  
 10 primaries (10<sup>th</sup> 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.

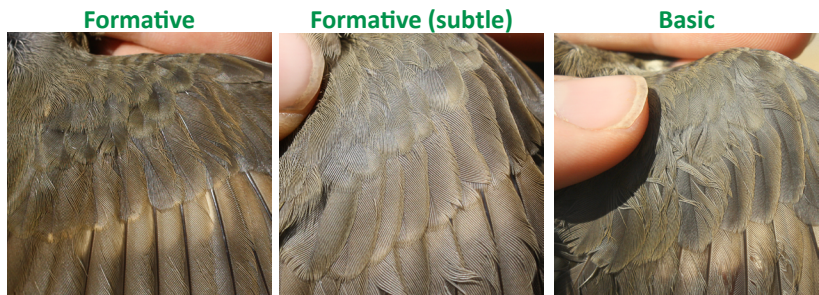
## Ageing



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 GC typically have buffy at the tip. Spots are generally larger on the innermost feathers. Spots become more subtle and may disappear when feathers are worn.



## Tail Shape

The angle of the feather tip differs.  
 Formative = 90 degrees  
 Basic = 110 degrees  
 Worn feathers may be misleading.



## Juvenile plumage

Note the buffy spots on the greater coverts and thorns along rachi of the lesser coverts & median coverts.



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References: Collier & Wallace 1989, MacGill Bird Observatory, Morris & Bradley 2000, Pyle 1997, Tabular Pyle 2007. Images: David Hodkinson.



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 General editor: David Hodkinson - editor@abirdinthehand.org

**Sexing**

Juvenile ☆☆☆☆☆

Formative ☆☆☆☆☆

Basic ☆☆☆☆☆

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

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

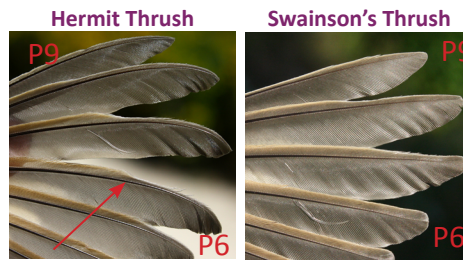
P6 emargination

Hermit - Emarginated

Swainson's - No emargination

Grey-cheeked - Often emarginated

Veery - Slight emargination

Wing Formula

Hermit: P9 &lt; P6, Swainson's, Grey-cheeked &amp; Veery: P9 &gt; P6

Back vs Tail colour

Hermit - Tail colour contrasts with back colour.

Swainson's - No contrast

Grey-cheeked - No contrast

Veery - No contrast

