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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Mourning Warbler | Oporornis philadelphia
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date: May 25, 1986Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Male (1st year?) Plumage: SummerLocality: Bunny Reservoir (swamp at west end) Elevation: 3700' ±Nearest town: Idalia County: YumaTime observed: 12 NoonDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 10 minutes - looked at books - then 3 minutes

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

None However, Jerry Cairo + Bill Praker saw a male Mourning Warbler 8 AM ± May 12, 1986 in the Hale Pond area.

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

None

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

Sunny - good light conditions - bird viewed from several directions and anglesOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x binocularsDistance, and how measured: 30 to 100 feet (estimated)If photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird? No One

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

Feeding low to the ground and on the ground (grass and thistles). The bird was moving fairly fast but only a foot at a time. It hopped but never walked. When I found the bird the second time it moved up into some trees about 30 feet above the ground and moved more slowly so I could study even better - saw nothing new or different.

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:

A relatively small warbler - i.e. smaller than a Yellow-Rump. Small bill. Head entirely dark blue. Absolutely no eye-ring. Eye area so dark that the bird seemed to have on a shroud (whence the name, Mourning Warbler I presume). Throat blue, but the black on the lower chest was apparently not totally developed so there was one 1/4" diameter spot (to the lower left as I viewed the front of the bird) that was completely surrounded by yellow. Belly and undertail coverts yellow OVER

Description (continued):

Back and top of tail, dark brown (National Geographic back color has too much green - Golden guide back color ~~is~~ has too much light yellow)
No wing bars.

According to Jerry Cairo Bill Praker says that the CFO records committee turns down Mourning Warblers that are not singing. If that is true, I think that's ridiculous!!! Because of that, I gather they will not turn in a report on their May 12, 1986 sighting. It seems to me that absolutely no eye-ring in the Spring should be sufficient. Whoever heard a Mac Gillivray's Sing ^{migrating} on the plains and most eastern warblers on the eastern plains of Colorado are not singing.

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

The bird never sang but gave a distinctive chip 2 or 3 x/minute when it was close to the ground (No chipping from the tree during second viewing)

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

Damp area on edge of marsh. Bird stayed in low, dead willows most of the time. Lush thicket growth on ground 10" high.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Connecticut Warbler has full eye-ring, lighter colored head, walks not hops, and young has gray on throat.

Mac Gillivray's Warbler always has a split eye-ring. No gray on throat. (I am assuming my bird was not a full adult since it had the black spot on the lower chest completely surrounded by yellow). The black on the Mourning is farther down the chest.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? (which this was) than.

I have seen many Mac Gillivray's, and the split eye ring on the Mac Gillivray's has always been very evident to me.
This is my first Mourning Warbler.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification: Consulted National Geographic and Golden guide

a) at time of observation: in the feed between first and second viewing.

b) after observation: Talked to Jerry Cairo who has seen Mourning Warblers in Ohio.

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: May 27, 1986

Reporting observer: L. W. Dan Bridges Signature: L. W. Dan Bridges

Address: 1925 S. Vaughn Way #207 Aurora, Colorado 80014

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

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