

ACCEPTED

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

|X|

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

Species: Mourning Warbler
(Vernacular Name)Oporornis philadelphia
(Scientific Name)Date(s): Thursday, May 26, 1994Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: M Plumage: BreedingLocality: Crow Valley Campgd - Pawnee Mt. Grass Elevation: 4800 ft.Nearest town: Briggsdale, Colo. County: WeldTime(s) observed: 1135 Hrs.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 7-8 seconds

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

none

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

?

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

Bird in full shade, under 3 clustered juniper trees. Sky overcast to cloudy with sun trying to come through.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Binoc - 8x56 SwarovskiDistance, and how measured: 16 feet - stepped off.If photographed, type of equipment and film: —Who else photographed the bird? —Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): Flushed up fromground as I passed by on foot path. Had been under 3 juniper trees (20-25' height). I heard rustle & saw movement in low branches.As I knelt down, bird was seen perched in full view on low, dead branch.

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 observed in the field:

Small, warbler-shaped bird, plumpish appearing. Dull dark gray hood extending over nape and dipping low over breast. Color uniformly slate-gray blending to blackish shade over breast and upper parts. Solid olive green, no streaking, striping or wing bars. Under parts bright, solid yellow thru undertail coverts. Did not note leg coloring. No eye ring. Bill small, pointed, dark. Dark eye. Perching branch 8-10" above ground.

Description (continued):

Full side view and partial frontal view when bird turned to look at me. He hopped away to distant branches. I waited quietly for 2 min. for possible reappearance. No movement seen. Went to back of junipers to investigate. Bird gone, but Swainson's Thrush jumped up to low branches near where Warbler had been. I continued to look in nearby bushes - 2x in next 2 hr. Unable to relocate.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):
None

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

Deciduous woods, mostly Cottonwood, (3) 20-25' junipers clustered together. 6-8' high willows nearby. Three junipers surrounded by grass, thistle, wild roses & other small shrubs. (Windy - 5-7 mph. Area provided good wind protection.) Mint & gooseberry? bushes mixed in area vegetation.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Connecticut Warbler - has eyering, lacks darker breast.
Mac Gillivray's Warbler - has "split" eyering, less extensive dark plumage on breast.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Have seen Mac Gillivray's Warblers 15-17 x in Colo., most recent: May 16 at Elk Henry, 1994.
Have never seen Mourning or Connecticut Warblers.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

- a) at time of observation: Nat. Geo. "Field Guide to N.A. Birds" - Confirmed orig. I.D.
- b) after observation: Audubon's Encyclop.: N.A. Birds } to rule out hybridization possibility.
Audubon's Master Guide to Birding
Colorado Birds; Audubon's Field Guide }
Eastern Birds

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation Eastern Birds from memory

Date and time report was written: May 30, 2 pm. 1994

Reporting observer: KARLEEN SCHOFIELD Signature: Karleen Schofield

Address: 33 Yates St., Denver, Co. 80219
(303) 936-8661

Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
13810 WCR 1
Longmont, Colorado 80504