

2358 S. Fillmore
Denver, Co. 80210
June 7, 1990

accepted 7-0

Official Records Committee
c/o Zoological Collections
Denver, Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, Co. 80205

To Whomever Concerned:

While working on an atlas block on private land on June 1, 1990, approximately 7 mi. n.w. of Kit Carson, Cheyenne Co., Hugh Kingery at approximately 10 a.m. first noticed an oporonis type warbler (grayish head, lemon-yellow unders, pinkish legs, wing bar-less) that was white eye-ringed. The bird was in a small tamarisk grove at the n.w. end of a dry cottonwood riparian forest that was bordered on the west by extensive sand-sage habitat. We had excellent looks at this warbler with views as close as 10± ft. away for about 5 min.

The top of this bird's head was grayish. The chin-throat-upper breast was a lighter gray or more of a grayish-white color that was terminated by the lemon-yellow unders. This color did not intrude into the upper breast region. The eye was ringed completely in white, although there was a suggestion that the eye ring may not have been totally complete in the front, at the lore region. The lemon-yellow under tail coverts protruded approximately 3/4 of the way toward the distal end of the under tail. When the bird visited the ground, it hopped vs. walked. Although we did not have a direct size comparison, we both felt that this was not overall a large warbler, and that it was about MacGillibray Warbler sized (the oporonis we are accustomed to usually seeing in Colorado).

We eliminated the female Connecticut Warbler by size, lack of any brownish tones on the head, and that it hopped vs. it being ambulatory. We eliminated the female MacGillivray's by the fact that this warbler had a completish type eye ring--the eye ring was not interrupted in the rear nor noticeably

in the front. We deduced from all this that we were enjoying watching a female Mourning Warbler.

Submitted by

Bob

Bob Righter