

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

MOURNING WARBLER

Oporornis philadelphiaRed 1/20/00 wpl
ACCEPT 7-0Location: Lamar Community College grove = "Willow Creek"; Prowers County; Lamar, ColoradoDate: May 9-15, 1999Setting:

We first found this bird with remnants of the May 8th CFO field trip. The bird was well seen on May 9th and then subsequently seen for almost a week. Although it started as a very secretive warbler, there were many occasions when the bird foraged quite openly and gave "crippling" good views. On the 9th I observed it at first from 8:00-8:30 a.m. from distances of 25-40 feet with B&L Elite 10x40 binoculars. The day was sunny. It foraged most often from ground level to up to mid-levels of 10 feet or so. It moved stealthily at times, like Oporornis sp. warblers. The bird gave a flat, dry "chip" note rarely, but especially when it flushed.

Description:

The bird was a breeding-plumaged male. It was about the size, shape and pattern of a MacGillivray's Warbler, being a large warbler -- about 6" long and was quite heavy-bodied and long-tailed. It was uniformly olive colored above. The wings were dark and lacked wingbars. It had a complete dark, gray hood that came down across the chest. The hood was black at the bottom. The undersides were otherwise a bright, deep yellow, including the undertail coverts. The face was dark gray, like the crown and hood -- and the blackest part of the face was a blackish smudge around the eye. There was no trace of white eye crescents nor eyering.

Similar Species:

The only other true ID contenders are MacGillivray's Warbler (smaller bib; dull to bright white eye crescents) and Connecticut Warbler (less extensive, lighter gray hood; complete white or buff eyering; gray, not black, lores).

Experience with Species:

I have seen all Oporornis sp. in Colorado and/or elsewhere in the U.S. The most recent Mourning Warblers that I have observed were 9 during 1979 in northern Illinois and a in September 1993 at Lake Henry and a male in Colorado in 1995.

This report is prepared from notes made during and after observation.

Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001

Mark Janos

CFO-RC FILE # 1999-150

ACCEPTED
Rec 5/99 upl

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM**

RESULTS _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES Mourning Warbler Oporornis philadelphia
(COMMON NAME) (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE May 8 1996

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN one SEX male PLUMAGE Alternate

EXACT LOCATION South end of Riparian grove on Willow Creek at Lamar Comm. College

COUNTY Prowers NEAREST TOWN Lamar ELEVATION 3622'

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 min TIME OF OBSERVATION ~ 9:00 AM

OTHER OBSERVERS: MARK JANDS, BRANDON K. PERCIVAL, DAVE QUESENBERRY, VIC ZERBIE, BOB DICKSON, M.O.B.

LIGHT CONDITIONS - sunny, clear skies

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: ZIESS 10x40

DISTANCE FROM THE BIRD: 10' FEET

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED Y(N) PHOTOGRAPHS SUBMITTED Y/N
WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? _____

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD
OCCURRED: Willow creek Riparian Area in dense willows along
the creek and in a willow, golden current thicket near
the maintenance garage.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIOR USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE ID):

BIRD WAS 1ST OBSERVED SULKING AT THE BASE of willows along Willow Creek. Hopping on ground and amongst the base of the thicket. LATER THE BIRD WAS SEEN FORAGING AT EYE LEVEL in a willow, golden current Thicket

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE, AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES NAPE, BACK WINGS, AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO ID. THE BIRD. DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYES, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT TO MAKING THE ID..(ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, SKETCHES, OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES) :

I first observed an oregonis warbler sulk in the under brush. Checking to see if it was a macgillivray's warbler I noticed the bird HAD NO white eye crests. Upon further observation I saw a

slate gray head with black eyes w/o eye crests. the slate gray of the nape - changed to olive green on the back & rump & tail & wings. wings were without wing bars. The gray of the head extended on to the breast to form a bib. Black feathers filled the bib from the ~~the~~ chin through the throat and widened at the base of the bib. The belly & under tail coverts & flanks were a lemon yellow washed with a grayish hue on the flanks

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

MacGillivray's Warbler - ~~to~~ White EYE CRESTS
BLACK in BIB NOT AS EXTENSIVE

Connecticut Warbler - White EYE Ring
LACKS black in bib
WALKS RATHER than hops

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

I HAVE SEEN MANY of EACH

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR ID. (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

NONE USED

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING _____ OR AFTER
_____ OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY ✓.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT 5-18-99

REPORTING OBSERVER : RIC OLSON

SIGNATURE ROL

9450 N. HEATHER DR. CASTLE ROCK, CO. 80104

303-790-7753

OLY@ECENTRAL.COM