

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Mourning Warbler

(Scientific Name) *Oporornis philadelphia*

Date(s) of occurrence: 14 May 2000

Number of birds seen: 1 adult male

Location: "Van's Grove" north of John Martin Reservoir just north of JJ road (east of 17 road), Bent County, CO.

Length of observation: 8 minutes

Time(s) of observation: mid afternoon.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: None.

Conditions: Warm. Mostly cloudy.

Optical equipment used: B & L Elite 10 x 42 binocular.

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 2 - 30 meters

Photos: no

Habitat: flushed from edge of dense shrubby area in a small "trap" on eastern plains.

Details: I flushed two chunky yellowish warblers, each with long yellow undertail coverts, olive upperparts and a dark gray hood. I immediately recognized them as *Oporornis* warblers. One was giving a rather loud flat hollow "chet." This call was unlike MacGillivray's Warbler's more yellowthroat-like call note. As I pushed, the non-calling bird sat up - it was a MacGillivray's Warbler.

The other bird skulked in the underbrush, and then popped into view. At times, I could see both birds at the same time. The bill was rather large and mostly flesh colored (dark above). The crown and head were metallic gray with slightly darker loreal area. No eye-arcs or eye-rings. Throat slightly darker than face, but lighter than breast band. Black breast band contrasting with throat and yellow lower breast. Mantle, wings, tail and upperparts olive green. Underparts bright yellow. Long yellow undertail coverts extending more than half the length of tail and were longer than on the MacGillivray's Warbler. Legs pinkish. Eye dark.

Call note, lack of white eyering or eyearcs, prominent contrasting dark breast band and length of undertail coverts eliminate other similar species.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen, heard and studied hundreds of Mourning Warblers, mostly in Wisconsin. I have seen similar numbers of MacGillivray's Warblers, mostly in Colorado. I have seen about 100 Connecticut Warblers, mostly in the Midwest.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): None.

This report is from notes made immediately after observation.

Date of written report: 11 February 2001

Reporting observer: Christopher L. Wood, zeledonia@att.net

Signature: *Christopher L. Wood (electronic submission)*

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