

2002-79

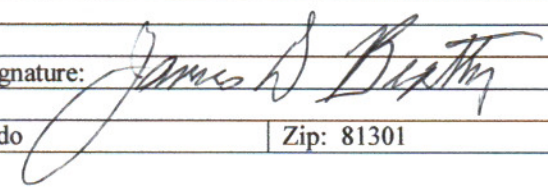
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Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #:		
RESULTS:		
Species: (Common Name) Mourning Warbler		(Scientific Name) Oporornis philadelphia
Date(s) of occurrence: September 12, 2002		
Number of birds seen: One	Sex: Immature (probably female)	Plumage: First winter
Exact location: West side of Animas River about one-half mile downstream of Santa Rita Park in Durango		
County: LaPlata	Nearest town: Durango	Elevation: 6500 ft
Length of observation: Approximately 2 minutes		Time(s) of observation: About 12:15pm
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Peter Derven		
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): None		
Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Sunny with sun overhead		
Optical equipment used: B&L Elite 10x42		
Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): About 35 to 40 ft		
Was (were) bird(s) photographed? No		If so, are you submitting photos? No
Who took the photograph(s)? N/A		
Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Bird was in deciduous trees near river bank feeding about 15-20 feet above the ground in a small, loose mixed flock of warblers.		
Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Bird was feeding in tree gleaning insects from leaves. No unusual feeding traits were evident or noted.		
DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Bird gave an immediate chunky appearance of an oporornis warbler even though it was feeding higher than I typically see MacGillivray's which is the common oporornis warbler in SW Colorado. The head was an olive-brown tinged lightly with gray. There was a very faint eyering that appeared broken in front of the eye. The lore was somewhat darker than the surrounding area. The area over the lore and eye was a light yellowish color. The bill was stout for a warbler and the upper mandible was dark while the lower mandible was dusky flesh-color with a darker tip. The chin was a fairly bright yellow. The yellow of the chin extended down the throat and upper breast in a fairly narrow streak and then widened considerably at the belly. The belly and undertail coverts were all a fairly bright yellow. The upper body was olive-brown which extended through the top of the tail. The tail was relatively short and the undertail coverts were of medium length. The flanks and sides of the upper breast and throat were a dusky olive-brown similar to the back, but lighter. There were no wingbars or other distinguishing marks to the bird. I did not note the leg color of this bird.		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Not heard		
SIMILAR SPECIES -- Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Immature MacGillivray's are common, but they all have a complete gray hood and bold top and bottom eye arcs. Also, I have not seen a MacGillivray's with a yellow chin or thin almost complete eyering. Also, the head of the imm. MacGillivray's is usually grayer. Finally MacGillivray's has a somewhat longer tail and doesn't look as chunky as this bird. Connecticut Warbler is much larger with a bolder eyering and duller underparts without a yellow chin. Also, the under tail coverts of a Connecticut are bright yellow and fairly long giving the bird a short-tailed look. Because of the yellow chin, the bird was superficially similar to a Nashville Warbler, but differed in many ways. The head was not gray enough, the eyering was too indistinct, the pinching down of the yellow on the upper breast was wrong, the bill was wrong, and the general jizz did not fit a Nashville.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have a great deal of experience with MacGillivray's and moderate experience with Connecticut and Mourning Warblers, mostly in Spring migration in Ohio and Ontario. I have seen a limited number of Fall Connecticut and Mourning Warblers.		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): I did not identify this bird until I consulted Sibley and Warbler's by Dunn and Garrett. An immature Mourning Warbler did not cross my mind while I was observing the bird, but I knew that the field marks did not match any warbler that I was very familiar with.		
This report was made from (check one) ☒ later from memory.		
Date and time of written report: September 15, 2002 at 10:00 pm		
Reporting observer: James D. Beatty		Signature: 
Reporting observer's address: 165 Twelve Point Buck Trail		
City: Durango	State: Colorado	Zip: 81301