

Hermit Warbler     Dendroica occidentalis     1 adult plumaged male

Pueblo City Park, Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado

May 8, 1975     8:35 to 8:40 A.M.     later 9:05 to 9:10 A.M.

By Van A. Truan     7x35 Bushnell Binoculars

Habitat: Ponderosa and piñon pines, one-seeded and Rocky Mtn. junipers and misc. other trees.

While birding in City Park I observed a warbler flycatching in the top area of a ponderosa pine. I then pshished and the bird came down to about 8 feet from me. The bird had a bright yellow face & crown, black throat, white breast except the upper part which was black, two white wing bars on gray wings, a dark gray back and black nape & lower half of the back of the head. The bird was feeding around the male cones and new bud areas on the pine. It then flew down to a lower branch directly in front of me at about five feet. The bird was in direct sunlight at this time. I then noted the dark legs, dark eye, white sides with black streaks running down them, and the tail (which was slightly forked, dark on top, and white underneath) I then knew it was a hermit warbler. I left to go home and get my camera. I returned a little later and found it. The bird was again in the top of the tree. I tried to get a picture but a street cleaner scared the bird off. I didn't see which direction it went.

Conclusions: I have no doubts that the bird was a Hermit Warbler.

1. The bright yellow face and crown
  2. The black throat and upper breast
  3. The black nape
  4. The dark gray back
  5. The gray wings with two white wingbars
  6. The white breast, belly, and flanks
  7. The white sides with black streaks running down them
- These were the major field marks I observed.

Similar species: Black-throated Green Warbler

1. Olive-green crown and back
2. black sides
3. I've seen only one, a female last Sept. in the Pueblo area.

Townsend's Warbler:

1. Black face and crown
2. yellow breast
3. I've seen lots of them in Colo. and Ariz. each Fall

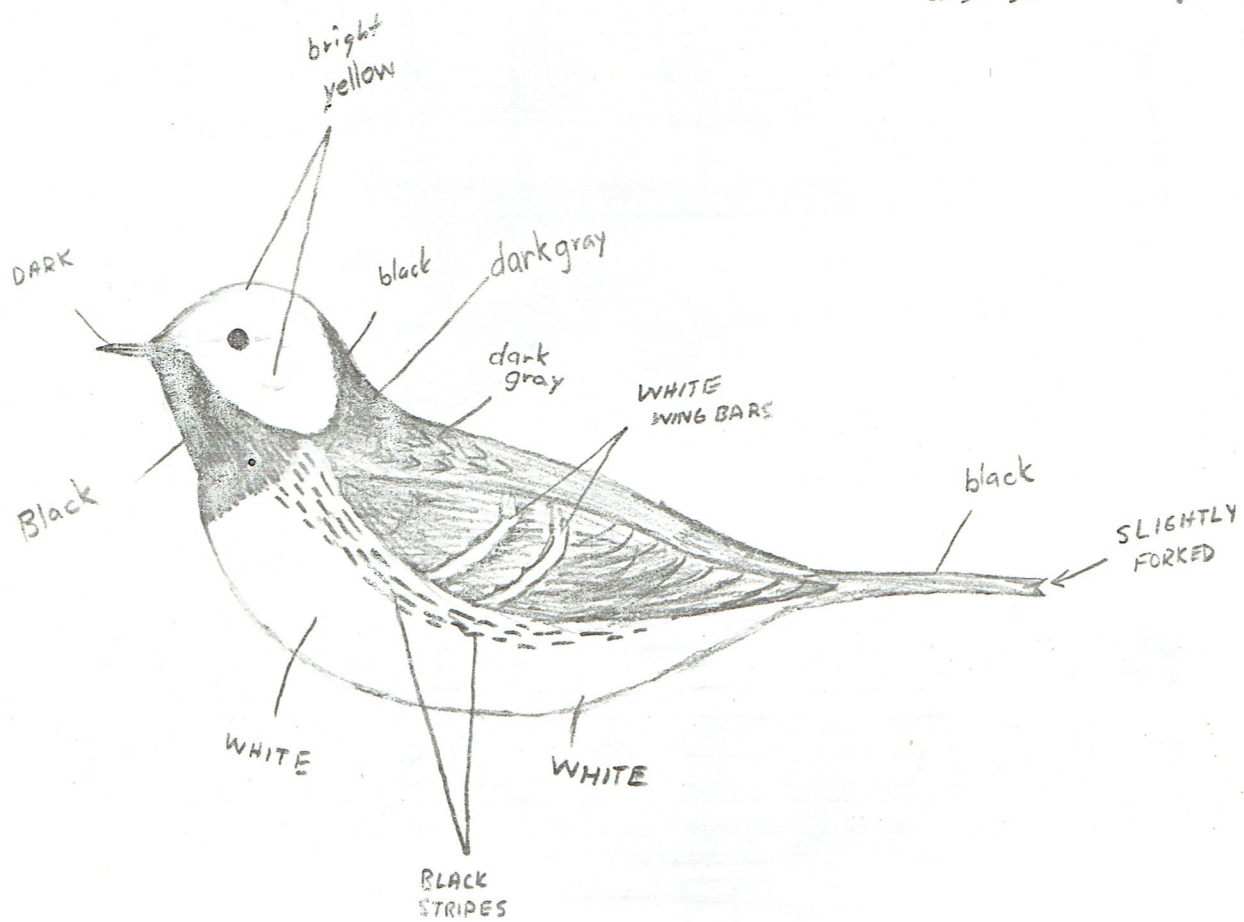
Hooded Warbler

1. yellow-breast, belly, back, wings

Prepared May 8, 1975     Sketch enclosed

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I have seen this species in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Co. Arizona in Sept. 1973 it was also a male.



SKETCH BY VAN TRUAN