

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Hermit WarblerDendroica occidentalis

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): 9 May 1978 (bird first found on 7 May)Number of birds seen: OneSex: FemalePlumage: -Locality: Red Rocks ParkElevation: about 6000 ft.Nearest town: MorrisonCounty: JeffersonTime(s) observed: 1730-1800Off and on for half-hour, several timesDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) bird was observed continuously 5-10 min.

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Bill Lybarger

Harold Holt

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

John and Joyce Cooper, Patty Echelmeyer, a number of others as well (bird was first found by an out-of-town birder)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Overall, sun behind bird; but bird sometimes seen with sun to the side, providing excellentOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): lighting conditions at those times10 X 50 binocularsDistance, and how measured: Never more than 30 ft., sometimes up to 10 ft. estimated

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? Photographed by Harold Holt while I was present

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Rather slowly foraged lowly (within 5 ft. of ground) in dense wild plum thicket.

Frequently probed or examined the wild plum blossoms. Although it was often in dense growth, it frequently moved into rather open, exposed situations. It was

obviously very unconcerned with our presence as it willingly came within 10 ft. of

us several times (it came to us, we didn't approach it)

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern.

Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

Face (lores, cheeks, auricular area, forehead) clear gold-yellow. Crown spotted with dark gray, becoming solid gray on the nape. Back very gray with several obscure darker gray streaks. At very close range under the best light conditions, a slight greenish tinge or cast was noted on the nape. Wings gray with two rather thin, obscure white wing-bars. Rump gray. Uppertail blackish-gray. Throat, breast, belly, sides, flanks, undertail coverts pale (whitish), with a rather sharp distinction between throat and yellow face and cheeks. Slight buffy tinge on throat and breast. Dark gray blotch on upper throat, another just below it on the upper breast. Very, very pale, obscure gray streaks (about two) on sides. Underside of tail largely white. Eyes black. Bill black. Legs dark.



## Description, (continued)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

None heard.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Dense, low(8 ft.)wild plum thicket in a ravine in foothills shrub formation.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Most likely bird to be confused with Hermit is hybrid Townsend's X Hermit. The following day(10 May)I viewed color photogs of such a bird(taken in California by Bruce Webb). The bird in the photo differed from the Red Rocks in the following points: 1-back of the hybrid was extensively greenish; back of RR bird was almost totally gray, with only a very minor greenish cast, restricted to the nape; 2-throat and breast of hybrid were extensively yellow; RR bird had yellow face well-demarcated from whitish throat and breast, which was only very slightly buffy, but not at all yellowish.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen two Hermit Warblers(a male and a female), at Pt. Reyes, Marin Co., California on 21 January 1978. I have never seen a Townsend's X Hermit hybrid.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: Standard field guides consulted. It was noted that the bird had much weaker wing-bars than depicted in ~~either Peterson or~~ Robbins.

b) after observation: I talked with Bruce Webb and looked at his photographs of the hybrid. My discussion with him and what I saw in the photographs indicated to me that the bird was probably a Hermit, not a hybrid(Bruce suspected that after hearing my description of

This report was written from notes made during X, after        observation; from memory <sup>the bird</sup>       .

Date and time report was written: 19 May 1978

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews

Signature: Robert Andrews

Address: 1390 So. Ivy Way, Denver, Colorado 80224

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below.

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
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