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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-ORC FILE # 52-79-9

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Hermit Warbler

Dendroica occidentalis

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): 27 April 1979

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: Male

Plumage: Breeding

Locality: home of John & Joyce Cooper, 1041 Field St., Lakewood

Elevation: about 5200 ft.

Nearest town: Lakewood

County: Jefferson

Time(s) observed: 5:30-6 PM

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) Observed continuously for almost 1 hr.

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

Found by John and Joyce Cooper. Also observed earlier in the day by Patty Echelmeyer, Bob Buttery, Carl Wolf, possibly others. Coopers observed bird with me.

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

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

Varying; best conditions were with sun shining directly on bird from behind observer.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 X 50 binoculars

Distance, and how measured: Minimum estimated distance 25-30 ft.

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

Who else photographed the bird?

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

During the entire time of observation, the bird foraged fairly actively (although at times somewhat sluggishly) about leaf and flower buds on outer branches of trees, generally at a moderate to high level of tree. Occasionally gleaned from bark. Occasionally foraged by hovering in front of a twig. Overall, typical Dendroica behavior.

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:

Generally, typical of a Dendroica warbler in size and shape. Bill short, black. Legs black. Eyes black. Head bright, clear lemon yellow. Throat and extreme upper breast (bib) jet black. Remainder of underparts clear white, with one or two extremely faint gray streaks on sides. Nape blackish-gray. Back solid gray, no trace of green, with rather heavy black streaks. Rump gray, streaked but less strongly than back. Wings gray, with two broad, conspicuous white wingbars. Underside of tail mostly white.

(OVER)



Description, (continued)

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

No song or call heard.

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

Quiet, urban residential neighborhood, with many tall trees of several species.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Bright yellow head, gray back, black bib render this bird virtually unmistakable. Townsends, Black-throated Green group have more extensive black on breast, have green backs, solid (green or black) crowns, etc.

Hybrid Hermit X Townsend's Warblers are known. This possibility can be excluded I believe because such birds demonstrate intermediate characters, specifically more black on breast some yellow color on underparts, green in back, etc. The last 2 were lacking. Black was limited to center of throat and only the very extreme upper part of breast.

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

I have observed male Hermit Warbler at Pt. Reyes in California (one individual seen very well)

I have also seen female, immature male Hermits in California and in Colorado (Red Rocks-1978)

I have seen many Townsend's Warblers, and a number of Black-throated Green Warblers, in all plumages. I have never seen a Hermit X Townsend's Warbler hybrid.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification: None needed.

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation: Discussed characters of hybrids with Bruce Webb. We agreed that this bird evidently displayed no characters indicating hybridization (from my verbal description)

This report was written from notes made during X, after        observation; from memory       .

Date and time report was written: 28 April 1979

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,  
CITY PARK  
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