

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Hermit Warbler; Dendroica occidentalis
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): May 16, 1980 Time Bird Seen: 11:30 to 11:40 a.m. (app.)

Locality: east edge of Varsity Pond, Univ. of Col, Boulder

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Swift Audubon's, 8.5 x 44 Binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: F Plumage: Spring adult

Light conditions: Somewhat overcast - excellent birding conditions

Distance from bird, and how measured: less than 20 ft. at times (app.)

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

No different from any other warbler. Perhaps more active.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Bird was seen in both Rocky Mountain Juniper (Juniperus scopulorum) and Blue Spruce (Picea pungens).

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Dave Moon, Haverford College, Haverford, Pa. 19041

Susan Ward, 449-6686, 967 9th St, Boulder, Colorado 80302

Jan McHugh, 1137 Pleasant St., Boulder, Colorado, 80302

Bruce Webb, EPOB, Boulder, Col 80309

APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

The bird was essentially identical to the picture of the female Hermit Warbler in Birds of North America. The back was very gray. It was seen very well at close range and all three observers saw agreed that there was no green or even any green hints. A gray spike ran up the back of the head, but did not reach the top of the head. The forehead was as yellow as the rest of the face. The yellow on the face was fairly bright, but not as bright as the female Townsend's that was in the same tree. The throat was not as black as pictured in BONA.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery--the head was not nearly as clean as those on Townsend's or B-t Gre.

i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

The bird made no sounds.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Black-throated Green-green back, green crown, indistinct facial pattern.

Townsend's-indistinct facial pattern, yellow breast, distinct streaking on breast, crown and forehead green, back green.

Townsend's x Hermit-face pattern, yellow breast, green-gray back

Prior experience with this and similar species:

No experience with Hermits. However, being from the east I have seen and banded many Black-throated Greens. My only experience with the Townsend's was one that was at the pond the same day. This report was written from notes made during ____ after X observation; from memory X.

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Signature: Howard E. Blake Jr.

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205