

52-91 -64

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: 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): 30 April 1991 Time Bird Seen: 12:25 pm to 12:35Locality: Mineral Palace ParkPueblo, Colo.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: one Sex: male Plumage: breedingLight conditions: Excellent; bright sun w/ scattered clouds.Distance from bird, and how measured: From 50 ft (most of time) to 200 yds (first sighting) estimated.Describe the bird's overall behavior: Bird flew in to high tree tops (buds, no leaves). Bird fed in twigs; moderately active flying from branch to branch gleaning insects from limbs. Silent. Usually foraged upright, sometimes reaching under twigs or clinging at angles to twigs. With 3 yellow-r. warblers.Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: City park. Lawn with scattered patches of deciduous trees. Leaves not yet out much. Mostly clear tree tops with buds or in flower.

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

None.

APPENDIX 11 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. *Small warbler, about 5" long with small dark pointed bill. Smaller bodied and smaller-billed and shorter, more slender than accompanying Yellow-rumped Warblers. Face plain, glaring bright yellow (with black eye staring out). Forehead also bright yellow. Uppesides dark slate gray, nearly black. Black back narrows on nape & extends up through center of crown (but narrow & hard to see from side). Two sharp white wingbars were conspicuous. Tail notched & grayish white below. All white underparts separated from yellow face by a neat black bib. Bib starts at chin and extends a short way onto breast, just meeting blackish shoulder. Lower edge is a clean line, like a Chickadee bib. Underpart pure white with unstreaked flanks. Undertail coverts white.*

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Silent.

List similar species and how you eliminated them: *Golden-winged has Black face. Hooded Warbler lacks wingbars, is yellow below. Townsend's Warbler has streaked underparts, olive back, yellow-tinge below, dark crown & dark cheek. Golden-cheeked has line through eye, streaked flanks, uneven bib. Black-throated Green Warbler has green back, darkish ear coverts, face framed in dark, streaked flanks, uneven bib and yellowish tint on undertail.*

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I saw male Hermit Warblers in Yosemite in summer 1989 and in San Diego in fall 1990.

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☐ observation; from memory ☐.

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Return Form To:

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