

Accepted 7-0

CFO-ORC-FILE# 52-96-73

COLORADO RARE BIRD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐ RARE RECORD ☒ UNUSUAL RECORD ☐

Species: Hermit Warbler
(Vernacular Name)

Dendroica occidentalis
(Scientific Name)

Dates: May 17, 1996.

Number of birds seen: one.

Sex: male.

Plumage: first year.

Locality: Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, roads HH & 16.

Nearest town: Fort Lyon.

County: Bent.

Time observed: 7:30-7:50AM.

Duration of observation: 5 minutes.

Other observers with you:

Bob Dickson 55 Villa Drive, Pueblo, CO 81001.

Other observers who saw the bird independently:

Duane Nelson (Golden, CO) later in the day on 5/17/96.

Light conditions:
good.

Optical equipment:
10X40 Baucsh & Lomb Binoculars .

Distance from bird:
40 feet.

Describe the bird's behavior:

I spotted the bird near the top of the tall trees, when I got my binoculars on the bird, I called out to Bob Dickson and said "Hermit Warbler". He got on the bird and also identified it as a Hermit Warbler. The bird stayed near the top of the trees during the entire time of observation. It was not with any other birds.

Describe the bird:

The size of the bird was about five and one half inches. The overall shape was normal for warblers. The plumage was a first year male because of the yellow face with a patchy

black throat and the black nape like adult males. The color pattern is as follows: the bill was dark and thin. The head was yellow showing yellow on forehead. The face was unmarked yellow, not as bright as adult males. The nape had some black. The back was briefly seen however it seemed grayish. The wings were grayish white two white wing bars on each wing. The tail was blackish with white. The chin and throat were patchy black (not completely black). The breast was white. The belly was white. The flanks were white. The vent was white. The under tail coverts were white. The legs and feet were dark. The shape of the birds bill was thin and short. The shape of the tail was long and squared. I identified this bird by the unmarked yellow face with black on throat and nape, also by the size and shape (colorful small song bird on top of the trees foraging for insects). Also the lack of streaks on flanks or breast.

Describe the bird's song and call if heard:

The bird sang and chipped. The song was not loud and I cannot describe it. The chip cannot be described.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

In a large woodlot near Fort Lyon, CO in tall trees.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

Townsend's Warbler: This species shows a dark ear patch on both sides of the face and shows dark streaking on the sides.

Black-throated Green Warbler: This species shows dark streaking on each side and a green forehead.

Golden-cheeked Warbler: This species shows streaking on sides and a black forehead.

Townsend's X Hermit Warbler hybrid: The hybrid would show streaking down each side.

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

Hermit Warbler: This is my first one.

Townsend's Warbler: I have seen many each year in Colorado since at least 1990.

Black-throated Green Warbler: I have seen two in Colorado.

Golden-cheeked Warbler: I have seen three males at Lost Maples, Texas in March of 1996.

Townsend's X Hermit Warbler hybrid: I have not seen one.

List books if they helped in your identification:

Warblers of the Americas.

This report was written from notes taken during __, or after observation X, or from memory__.

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