

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

2002-3

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Connecticut Warbler

(Scientific Name) *Oporornis agilis*

(A)

Date(s) of occurrence: 27 May 2001

Number of birds seen: 1 female

Location: Last Chance Rest Stop, Washington County, CO

Length of observation: 40 seconds

Time(s) of observation: 11:00am

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Brandon Percival heard the bird calling but only glimpsed it in flight.

Conditions: Sunny, Calm, 80 F.

Optical equipment used: Leica 8 x 42 binocular.

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 7 - 12 meters.

Photos: no

Habitat: Isolated migrant trap composed of riparian vegetation surrounding freshwater pool.

Details: While returning to Denver after conducting an RMBO transect, Brandon Percival and I decided to check the Last Chance migrant trap. There were over 150 migrant landbirds in the small migrant trap. Most of these were Swainson's Thrushes we also found Veery (2), MacGillivray's Warbler (3), Northern Waterthrush and several Willow Flycatcher (Brandon found an Alder Flycatcher I did not see). As we were birding, Brandon flushed an unknown *Oporornis* that delivered an unfamiliar call note, so he called me over. I was on the edge of the pool and Brandon was walking on the far side of the trees. He walked toward the bird and it flew toward me and landed on a small branch about 4 feet off the ground. As it flew to the branch it gave a flight note that was quite similar to Yellow Warbler, but slightly louder and more resonant. After it landed, it started walking along the branch. It paused, looked around for a few seconds and flew off to the bushes. As it was walking up the branch, I yelled "Connecticut Warbler." Brandon was on the far side of the trees and was only able to see it as it flew. We heard it call on one other occasion, but never refound it. Several other observers tried to find the bird in the afternoon, but many of the birds had been flushed out of the trap and no one could relocate it.

The bird was similar in size and shape to an Ovenbird, but with exceptionally long undertail coverts. The Ovenbird-like shape was added to since the bird walked methodically along the branch, slowly moving its head forward and backward (dove-like) as it walked. The primaries appeared slightly longer than on an Ovenbird, but without comparison, this was difficult to judge. The bird was similar in overall coloration to a MacGillivray's Warbler, of which we had just seen three, but was generally more olive and brown overall.

The crown and upperparts was olive with a slight brown tone. Th

The bird had a thick complete white eye-ring (not thin as in some Common Yellowthroats). Wings darker, edged olive. The bill was flesh-colored, blending to dark above and at the tip.

Similar species: The size and shape, walking, complete white eyering, and very long undertail coverts eliminate all other species.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen and heard about 200 Connecticut Warblers, mostly in Wisconsin, but also in IL, IN, MN, NJ, CA and Manitoba.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): None.

This report is from notes made immediately after observation.

Date of written report: 4 March 2002

Reporting observer:

Christopher L. Wood

zeledonia@cfo-link.org

Reporting Observer's Address: 744 Mockingbird St, Apt G-205

City: Brighton

Signature:



State: Colorado

Zip: 80601