

DOCUMENTATION --
RARE BIRD SIGHTING

CFO ORC File # 52-80-20

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION
AMERICAN BIRDS

Species: Yellow-throated Warbler
(Vernacular name)

Dendroica dominica
(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.

Date (s): 11 May 1979 Time Bird Seen: ca. 2 p.m. ^{xxx for} ca. 1 min.

Locality: Eleven-miled Lake, C.
Divide (2), Teller (?) Colorado (no road map of Colorado at hand now)
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: field glasses (10x, 50)

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult

Light conditions: Good

Distance from bird, and how measured: Est. 75 feet (not measured)

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Several warblers (all others were Audubon's) were flitting about on the ground and occasionally lighting on fence posts on the east side of the lake. When I focussed my glasses on one bird I was greatly surprised to see that it was a Yellow-throated Warbler. It remained there in plain view for about one minute (not timed) and gave its characteristic call note (chip) two or three times.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: (above); open, with trees nearby.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
None, to my knowledge

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.

Warbler of about average size or above; crown blackish, fading to bluish gray on lower back; wings dusky to blackish, with 2 white bars on coverts; tail dusky, with white patches on lateral rectrices; superciliary stripe white (yellow lores, if present, not seen), and continuing to side of neck; black patch on side of head, continuing as a streak to side of breast; chin and throat bright yellow; remainder of underparts white, streaked with black on sides.

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

List similar species and how you eliminated them: The extensive black on the head and neck eliminated Grace's Warbler, which I would like to claim as I have never seen one.

Prior experience with this and similar species: As I have spent virtually my entire life (now 65 years old) in the Southeast, I have surely seen and/or heard more than a thousand individuals of this rather common species. This fact alone should make the description unnecessary. I doubt that many observers would write a field description of a species so familiar to them, as I did not. Having to do so may discourage observers. This report was written from notes made during after observation; from memory x with valid records and encourage those of lesser experience, who can copy them.

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