

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAIR BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

52-89-41

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): ① Oct. 14, 1989 ② Nov. 18, 1989 Time Bird Seen: ① 2:15 PM 2:18 PM
② 8:35 AM to 8:37 AM

Locality: Denver Zoo, Wolf Pack Woods. City Park 23rd + Steele.
Denver, Co 80205
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: My eyes

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

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

Light conditions: ① Sunny 80°
② Cloudy 40°

Distance from bird, and how measured: ① 8-9'
② 5' — visually

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

① Bird first seen perched on hot wire in wolf yard. Stayed there briefly, then flew to Ponderosa pine, where it landed on edge of branch. Though it stayed in one place, it was constantly moving its head and wings, movement mechanical, as if ready to take off at any moment. It then flew out into park. Did not see bird feeding. Was surprised to see it out in open.

② Bird in pine trees in public viewing area. Bird feeding, constantly moving along branches. Bird low in tree at first, when I went to look at it, it flew higher up. Vocalizing at first, then stopped. Due to bird's constant movement and flitting from tree to tree it became difficult to see bird and keep track of it.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Wolf Woods contains over a dozen mature Ponderosa Pine. Numerous trees + shrubs surround area adjacent to exhibit. Waterfall constantly runs down rockwork in exhibit. Ponderosa's create a very high thick canopy. Northeast of exhibit is open area with no trees.

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

Dottie Kreider - Denver Zoo - 23rd + Steele - City Park - Denver, Co - 80205

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.

① Bird was first seen sitting on hot wire of wolf exhibit, with its right side to us. Coloration on face & sides was black and white, giving it a marbled look. Bird turned around and a bright yellow throat became visible. The bird flew into the Ponderosa Pine next to us, landed on the end of a branch facing us about 8' to 9' away. Bird was appx. 5" long, with small, slender black bill. Yellow throat was again very prominent and bordered on the sides by black. There was no yellow on face or any part of the body except for the throat. Belly was white. Back was not visible.

② Bird feeding in pine trees in public viewing area of wolf pack woods. Bird was appx. 5' away when I first saw it. Unfortunately all I could make out was the yellow throat, before it flew higher up in tree. Pine trees were fairly thick and sky was overcast, washing out bird's plumage.

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

① No vocalizations.

② Bird vocalizing while feeding. I can't recall exactly how the bird sounded. I was just a series of chirps that I know I hadn't heard before. This time I heard the bird before I saw it.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Grace's Warbler: Bird I saw had white ear patches, and no yellow in eyebrows.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

None

This report was written from notes made during ____ after X observation; from memory ____.

NAME (print): Mary B. Patterson - Zookeeper

Mailing address: 7220 E. 4th AVE. Denver Co. 80220

Signature: M. B. Patterson

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