

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Canada Warbler | Wilsonia canadensis
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date: May 21, 1989Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: BreedingLocality: Bonny Reservoir pond on south side - west of Wagon Wheel Campground Elevation: 3678'Nearest town: Idalia County: YumaTime observed: 4:30 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 7 minutes - then left to phoneColorado Bird Report - Couldnt relocate 1 hr later or next morning

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

None

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

I was looking NW - sun setting to the west - some shade but I could see fairly well.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8X binocularsDistance, and how measured: 50 feet - estimatedIf photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

The bird was feeding and singing - moving up and down as it foraged 10-15' off the ground.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

A fairly large warbler with a solid yellow breast and a black necklace which made identification instantaneous. The bird had a large white vent and undertail covert area (shown in Natural Geographic but not shown in the Golden guide.) The back was solid grayish-black with no wing bars. (over)

Description (continued):

The light was such that I could not ~~not~~ detect any bluish or greenish caste on the back. I could see the eye ring and the "spectacles" but I could not say whether the eye ring was yellowish (National Geographic) or white (Golden Guide).

I lean toward this because I don't remember any difference in color from spectacles to eye ring.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

The song was choppy - very distinctive (the books say varied). It was delivered while perched - not very loud - but frequent. Many Yellow Warblers around were singing and tended to drown out the Canada Warbler - but I thought I heard something different and went over to investigate.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

The bird was feeding in Russian willows under a row of cottonwoods on the north side of the road between the pond and a cattail cove.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

(on the east side of the dead end of the road - toward the cove)
A Kentucky Warbler does not have a black necklace. Mac Gillivray's, Mourning, and Connecticut warblers all have blue on the head. This bird had no blue. Hooded, Nashville, and Wilson's Warblers have no black necklace.

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

This was a life bird for me. It was a huge surprise because, according to my records, this is the first sighting of a Canada Warbler at Bonny Reservoir. Most sightings are in the fall in the foothills.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: None - This was an easy ID!

b) after observation: National Geographic and Golden Guide
Birds of North America

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: 7 PM May 24, 1989

Reporting observer: Dan Bridges Signature: J. W. Dan Bridges

Address: 1925 S. Vaughn Way # 207 Aurora, CO 80014

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205