

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

52-89-51

Species: Canada Warbler Wilsonia canadensis
(Vernacular name) (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.

A
(male only)

Date (s): September 2, 1989 Time Bird Seen: 8:30 AM to 8:35 AM

Locality: Bonny Reservoir (wagon wheel campground) - Hale, Yuma County, Colorado
This bird not recorded in latilong #14 (Burlington) in most recent latilong study
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 10 x 40 Zeiss Binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: ♂ + ♀ Plumage: Fall

Light conditions: Good

Distance from bird, and how measured: 10 feet estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Birds were foraging in willow trees in swampy area near lake edge. They stayed about 15 to 20 feet from ground level.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Marshy area at Bonny Reservoir's edge with heavy willows, cattails & marsh plants. Birds foraged on willow trees growing on sandy point protruding into marsh

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

Bob Dickson 55 Villa Drive Pueblo, Co 81001
Dave Johnson 1920 Greenwood Pueblo, Co 81003

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.

Bob Dickson saw 2 birds which he believed were ♂ + ♀. All 3 observers saw the male. The male showed slate bluish head, auricular region, nape & back with bluish wings & no wing bars. Tail was darker bluish black with no tail spots. Throat, chest, & belly were bright yellow. A necklace of dark gray vertical streaks was present across the breast from shoulder to shoulder. The bird also had a prominent eye ring. Under tail coverts were white. Bill was short thin & dark.

Dickson describes the accompanying bird, probably a female, the same as above but with a much less prominent necklace of streaks.

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

No sound made

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

The only other bluish headed & backed Warbler without wing bars but with mostly yellow underparts & eyering is Nashville Warbler. But Nashville lacks breast streaking of any kind. Oporornis Warblers show dull throats with an often dull smudged breast in contrast to the brilliant yellow throat & breast of the bird we saw with its contrasting necklace of gray streaks. Kirtland's Warblers show streaked flanks & lack prominent necklace.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have seen Nashville Warblers in several states and a few mourning & Connecticut Warblers in my native state of Missouri. I have seen Kirtland's Warblers a few times on their breeding grounds in Michigan. I have seen Macgillivray's Warblers many times in Colorado.

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

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Signature: David Silverman

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
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