

52-94-82
ACCEPTED

September 5, 1994

1643 S. Yukon St.
Lakewood, CO 80232
(303)988-3603

CO Field Ornithologists Official Records Committee
c/o Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

Ref: Canada warbler

Dear CFO Official Records Committee,

I lack the official reporting forms for rare bird observations in Colorado, but I am aware of what information you need and I also have a used Sight Record Form from the Latilong Study to follow as an example.

SPECIES: **Canada warbler** *Wilsonia canadensis*

DATE: 3-4 September 94

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1

SEX: Male

PLUMAGE: Immature/Adult?

LATILONG: 14

LOCALITY: Bonny State Park/reservoir, shelter belt/hedgerow about 50 yards south of public swim beach and approximately 100 yards west.

NEAREST TOWN: Idalia, CO

TIME OBSERVED: Approximately 0645 hours

DURATION OF OBSERVATION: 3 sightings: 1) approximately 2 minutes (9/3 @ 6:45a); 2) approx. 20-25 seconds (9/3 @ 5:50p); 3) 5-10 seconds (9/4 @ 6:30a).

OTHER OBSERVERS WITH ME: None the first two times; Cheryl A. Schreier briefly saw the bird with me the third time, but was unable to see it long enough to identify it.

OTHER OBSERVERS INDEPENDENTLY: Unknown, I observed no other birders throughout the

Labor Day weekend.

LIGHT CONDITIONS: Morning sunlight coming from the east, but sunlight was not directly on the bird. I was at right angle to the sun, looking south.

OPTICS: 7X35 Leitz

DISTANCE AND HOW MEASURED: Approximately 20 feet; estimated.

PHOTOGRAPHS: None

BIRD'S BEHAVIOR: Foraging and resting. It was in the company of 2 ad male American Redstarts, 2-3 ad female redstarts, 1-2 imm male redstarts, 3 Wilson's warblers and a veery.

I located the small group of passerines by chip note calls coming from two contiguous Russian olives. I first observed a male American redstart at eye level while it was rapidly moving from branch to branch. I noticed two Wilson's warblers about 4 feet above the redstart. I then observed another feeding warbler in the same proximity of the redstart and I observed the Canada warbler feeding among the branches and leaves of the Russian olive. It's movement was less rapid than the redstarts. It perched on bare branches for several seconds and appeared to look around.

DESCRIPTION: I saw a yellow breasted bird with a band across it's breast composed of vertical dark streaks. The streaking was dark charcoal gray and not jet black. I started looking for all the field marks I could see. I saw a solid yellow throat, breast, and belly. I saw an obvious yellow eyering and yellow lore, however, the lore did not smoothly form an even bridge between the eyering and upper base of bill (in other words, the spectacle was uneven, almost broken). Head, nape, back, wings, and upper tail was a solid, gray-blue. No wing bars.

I noticed the undertail coverts were light, but forgot to check if they were actually white in the excitement, until I relocated the bird later in the day. I then noted the definite white undertail coverts.

MY FIELD NOTES MADE WITHOUT CONSULTATION OF FIELD GUIDES AND WITHIN FIVE MINUTES OF OBSERVATION (photocopy attached):

6:45a gray-blue head-back-tail; yellow throat-breast-belly; yellowish eyering-lore-not smooth spectacle; light undertail coverts-maybe white; charcoal gray, not blackish breast streaks, vertical, forming "breast necklace".

*5:50p Addendum * white undertail coverts; "Breast necklace" charcoal gray-not jet black; definite yellow eyering-lore spot-not smooth bridge forming "spectacle".*

Neither the Canada or redstarts could be located on the fifth. Wilson's and yellow warblers were in the same area on the fifth. A cold front with strong north winds passed through the area during the night of the fourth.

SONG OR CALL: None identified from Canada, redstarts and Wilson's were occasionally giving chip notes.

HABITAT: Shelter belt of Russian olive, cottonwoods, various shrubs, medium sized trees, and poison ivy.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILAR SPECIES: I know of no other warbler species that closely resembles the Canada. Magnolia's have a complete breast band of vertical black streaks, but they have black face with no eyering, white eyebrow, wing bars, and yellow rump.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE: I have observed three different Canada's at Point Pelee and in Michigan.

CONSULTATIONS: I used the field guide from National Geographic and Robbins, et al for verification purposes. I thought this species was a rare occurrence, so I consulted the 1987 edition of *Colorado Bird Distribution*, *Latilong Study* and *Colorado Birds* by Andrews and Righter.

This report was written after the observation from field notes and memory on 5 September 1994.



William Schreier
1643 South Yukon St.
Lakewood, CO 80232

312 Date: 3 SEPT. 94 Time: AM Total:
 Location: BONNY RESERVOIR, CO Lifelist:

GREAT BLUE HERON

1
 2 AD ♂ 1-2 ♂
 3 AD ♀ IMM

AM. REDSTART

CANADA WARBLER

1

6:45a GRAY-BLUE HEAD-BACK-TAIL

YELLOW THROAT-BREAST-BELLY

Smooth

YELLOWISH EYELID - LORE - NOT SPECTACLE

LIGHT UNDERTAIL COVERTS - MAYBE WHITE

CHOCOLATE GRAY NOT BLACKISH BREAST STREAMS,

VERTICAL FORMING "BREAST NECKLACE"

ADDENDUM FROM ANOTHER PAGE.

5:50p CANADA WARBLER

WHITE UNDERTAIL COVERTS

"BREAST NECKLACE" CHOCOLATE GRAY - NOT JET BLACK

DEFINITE YELLOW EYELID - LORE SPOT

- NOT SMOOTH BRIDGE FORMING "SPECTACLE"