

Species: Kentucky Warbler
 (Vernacular Name)

Sporornis formosus
 (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): June 1, 1981 Time Bird Seen: 8:45 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
 Locality: Animas Valley N. of Trimble Lane - West side
 Nearest Town: Durango County: La Plata

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Laura Stransky</u>	<u>101 W. 31st St. Dgo.</u>	<u>247-8138</u>

Optical Equipment: 7X-35 Bushnell Featherlight

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: Sunny, bright

Distance from bird (how measured): _____

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: Breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: I first was aware of this bird when I heard an unfamiliar song. I followed the sound and after 15 or 20 minutes located it singing in a scrub oak. As it sang each time, it tilted its head producing a musical song, and giving me an excellent view of head and facial pattern. It changed perches infrequently and continued to sing all the time we observed it. It moved about very little.

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

The bird was definitely a warbler in shape, size, and behavior. The body was relatively chunky, not streamlined as a vireo, 4 1/2" or so in length. Bill slim, pointed. Nothing especially noteworthy in shape of wings or tail. Plumage was bright yellow underparts, all the way to tail. No white below. Above it was brownish-olive with a black line through the eye and a black whisker mark where the line curved downward. The yellow above the eye separated the black from the dark crown, giving the appearance of a yellow eye ring.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

The bird was singing from protected perches in the oak leaves near tops of branches - maybe 20-30' from ground. Song was a 5-part, 2-syllable production, loud, mellow, sounding like 'kitchee' but mellow or maybe throaty.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

The oak grove is on a scruboak, ponderosa, juniper hillside, fairly steep and very dry. A variety of birds nest in the area - yellow-rumped + Grace's Warblers, humming birds, black-headed Grosbeaks, etc.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Smaller than Chat, yellow instead of white eye-yellowthroat has unbroken black mask, ring.

There wasn't much else to confuse it with.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Familiar with Chat and yellowthroat.
No prior contact with this species.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds of N.A. - Robbins, et al., range maps.

Peterson's Western Guide

Both used primarily for checking plumage patterns.

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

PRINT NAME: Gloria Childress

Street Address: ~~Route 4 Box 362~~ 7125 CR. 203 Town and State: Durango, Colo

SIGNATURE: Gloria Childress DATE: June 15, 81

ZIP: 81301

Return to: ~~JACK REDDALL~~ - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Chas. A. Chase, Asst. Curator, Zool. Coll., Div. Museum of N.H., Dur. 80225