

Species: Kentucky Warbler
(Vernacular name)Oporornis Formosus
(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): 5-18-83 Time Bird Seen: 1 PM to 2 PMLocality: Tamarack Ranch
Creek, Logan County, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: Leitz 7x42

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Female Plumage: _____Light conditions: SunlightDistance from bird, and how measured: 50 Feet estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Walked along logs + branches in water, perched on low (1-2 ft) branches along slough + jumped around in pile of sticks by water.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

A muddy slough that the rising water of the Platte river was filling - large cottonwood trees in + out of water many low shrubs in + out of water. Trees + shrubs just beginning to leaf out.

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

John Prather saw same or similar bird 5-19-83 6 PMSame place

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.

A quercus-sized warbler bright yellow below, Grayish above.

A yellow line extending ~~to~~ from warbler bill to ^{behind} eye then becoming a circle extending not quite back to yellow line in front of eye. A black "moustache" extending from between bill + eye down side of throat + ending with a curl forward and a small point downward - identifying it as a female. Wings + back fairly uniform in color no wing bars. Front bright yellow from ~~the~~ base of bill to tail.

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

A loud warbler chip heard before + after observing bird.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

The pattern of yellow + black on side of face + throat very distinctive - no other bird similar.
Yellow belly also eliminates yellow throat

Prior experience with this and similar species:

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

NAME (print): Bill Prather

Mailing address: Box 486 Fleming, Colo 80725

Signature: _____

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206