

APPENDIX II

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DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Kentucky Warbler ; Oporornis formosus
(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.

Dates (s): 5/11/86 Time Bird Seen: 2:30 pm to for 10 min.

Locality: Colorado Springs Wildlife Area
Fountain CO El Paso
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9X30 Binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: alternate

Light conditions: good

Distance from bird, and how measured: Closest 20' approximated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Nervous, retreating warbler with quick flits as it seemingly probed for insects between a clump of trees close to ground

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Warbler was seen within 10' of small stream that runs through a portion of CSWA and empties into Fountain Creek. The bird was low, < 5' off of ground, in a dark tangle with 4 cottonwoods. It moved around this clump, until I flushed it up river where it settled into a similar tangle w/ lots of shade.

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

John & Virginia Maynard 1320 Indian Oaks Place, Manitou Springs, CO 80829

(over)



Description: The identifying feature of this bird as an other warblers is "the facial expression" that Suttler teaches to look for. Besides the uniformly yellow underparts & the uniformly dark olive green nape, back, wings, and tail the bird had

the distinctive yellow supercilium which extended behind & slightly below the eye. A black vertical bar directly behind the facial yellow contrast sharply with the yellow of the face and blended with the dark green upper parts. The black extended down behind the eye forming a border for the hindmost areas of chin & throat. A thin portion of black also extent anteriorly just below the eye.

Calls - only one loud chip was given. It was not one that I am familiar with. It was actually a "chunk".

Similar species

C. Yellowthroat ♂ has solid black mask surrounding eye & forehead, ♀ not as yellow & w/out yellow supercilium

Hooded Warbler ♂ - has black cap & chin & throat w/ more yellow on face & forehead than KY.

♀ Canada Warbler - has yellow spectacles, but shows faint streaks on breast & head's nape color contrast w/ wings unlike KY.

No prior experience with Kentucky, I have just spend a week looking at ♂ & ♀ Hooded Warblers & many ♂ & ♀ C. Yellowthroats in Florida

Report made from memory: but it is a bird that I have looked for in Texas and one which I have memorized the distinguishing field marks, an easy bird to I.D. at the range I saw it.

Bill Maynard