

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): 18, 20 April 1991 Time Bird Seen: 11:00 am to 11:15 am (4-20-91)  
6:20 pm to 6:40 pm (4-18-91)

Locality: Olive Marsh, Arkansas River  
Pueblo, Colorado  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 9x30 Nikon binocs

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

Number of birds seen: one Sex: male Plumage: breeding

Light conditions: heavy overcast, evening light on 4-18; sunny on 4-20.

Distance from bird, and how measured: As close as 8 ft. (estimated). Usually 20-40'.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Fairly tame and easy to see. The bird hopped about mainly on the ground or in low dense tangles. Short-tailed and long-legged it often stood tall on a low perch, cocking the tail up. Occ. wagged or bobbed its tail.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

The edge of the Arkansas River. Walking & hopping on the wet river bank & in the dense tangled growth of the undercut bank; Never more than 2 feet off the ground.

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

Nathan Janos



# APPENDIX 1I Continued

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. Underparts uniform bright yellow and unstreaked, from chin to undertail coverts. Upperparts uniform olive green on back, wings & upper tail. Tail short & rounded; bill longish (for a warbler), black and pointed; legs and feet bubblegum pink. Forehead, crown and face black. Rear of crown speckled gray, blending into dark gray hindneck. Bright yellow supercilium curving up, over and behind the eye; curving narrowly around & behind eye, forming a partial yellow eyering. No wingbars. Black of face extends a short way onto sides of upper breast. Overall the bird was about 5" long.

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

Chip note was given off and on and was a distinctive low, sweet, sharp "chuck".

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

5" size and sharp bill indicate warblers. Solid olive back & low ground habits indicate *Oporornis* sp. Other members of genus have gray hoods, lack bright yellow throat & eyeline. Hooded & Wilson's Warblers have yellow face. Canada Warbler has breast band & white under-tail coverts.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen Kentucky Warbler in Texas, in migration.

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

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

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