

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

ACCEPT 7-0

KENTUCKY WARBLER

Oporomis formosusLocation: Willow Creek; Lamar; Prowers County, ColoradoDate: May 5, 1995Setting:

I was birding with Brandon Percival this morning along the Willow Creek grove behind Lamar Community College. It had been quite a good morning with Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue and Black-and-White warblers already. Brandon first observed the Kentucky Warbler as we circled around opposite sides of a tangle, looking for what was skulking within. We observed the bird at close range (25-40 feet) and in good sun (although it was usually on the ground, in shade). We watched it with binoculars (mine are B & L Elite 10x40s). This bird was a walker, and would either walk along, sometimes teetering a little bit, or fly short distances to land motionless on a low branch or back in the leaf litter. The bird was silent, though it may have chipped before we actually saw it as we were investigating a loud, sharp "chuck" note when we found it. I know that this bird was re-found here by a DFO field trip led by Brandon the following day.

Description:

The bird was a breeding-plumaged male. It was a small (about 5" long) dark warbler, yellow below. It had a short, dark olive tail. It had a slim, pointed blackish bill. The legs were long a very pink. The bird was a uniform, dark olive above without wingbars or other markings. The forehead and forecrown were blackish, blending into the olive hind-crown. This demarcation was gradual, and olive feathers invaded the black crown and black feathers invaded the olive hind-crown. The face was black with a brilliant yellow spectacle that was pointed behind the black eye. The undersides were bright, uniform yellow.

Similar Species:

Other warblers that are olive above and yellow below include the other Oporomis' species which show gray hoods and lack the yellow spectacle. Canada Warbler has a narrow yellow eyering and lores and shows a necklace of black streaks. Wilson's and Hooded warblers lack the yellow spectacles and have yellow, not black, foreheads.

Experience with Species:

I have seen many Kentucky Warblers, most recently in 1993 in Kentucky. I have one previous Kentucky Warbler in Colorado - in Pueblo in April 1991.

This report was prepared from notes made during and after observation.

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Colorado Field Ornithologists-Sight Record Form

Species: Kentucky Warbler. Scientific Name: *Oporornis formosus*.

Date: May 5-6, 1995.

Number of birds seen: 1. Sex: male. Plumage: breeding adult.

Locality: Lamar Community College grove.

Nearest town: Lamar. County: Prowers.

Times Observed: 10:10-10:25AM on 5/5 and 3:35-3:45 PM on 5/6.

Duration of observation: 25 minutes.

Other observers with me: Mark Janos on 5/5, DFO Field Trip on 5/6 including: Bill & Margi Elliott, Bob Goycoolea, Gary & Kathy Hughes, Tim Kuesel, Ric Olson, Myron & Suzi Plooster, Karleen Schofield, Claude Vallieres, and Sylvia Wheelock.

Other observers who saw the bird independently: None that I know of.

Light conditions: overcast on 5/5 and excellent on 5/6.

Optical equipment used: 10X40 Bausch & Lomb Binoculars.

Distance from bird: 20-30 feet.

Describe the bird's behavior: The bird feed near or on the ground at all times.

Describe the bird: The size was about 5 1/4 inches. The overall shape was typical warbler shape. The plumage was an adult male in breeding plumage. The color pattern is as follows: the bill was blackish. The head was black with spectles of a dull blue gray color on the top of the head. Above both eyes there were two bright yellow eyelines, behind the eyes the yellow went down to the bottom of the eyes. The rest of the face was black. The eyes were black. The color of the nape was grayish blue. The color of the back was geenish olive. The color of the wings were also greenish olive with no different color on the wing bars. The color of the rump was also greenish olive. The color of the tail was also greenish olive. The color of the chin was bright yellow. The color of the throat was also bright yellow. The breast color was also bright yellow. The underparts were also bright yellow. The undertail coverts were also bright yellow. The legs and feet were pink. The shape of the bill was short and thin. The shape of the wings and tail were typical warbler shape. I identified this bird by the bird's warbler shape, greenish olive upper parts, black on the face, and the all bright yellow underparts.

Describe the bird's song and calls: The bird did not make any sounds.

Describe the habitat: The bird was observed in a riparian woodlot in Southeastern Colorado called the Lamar Community College grove, seen on the ground below russian olive trees.

How did you eliminate similar species:

No other bird looks like the beautiful Kentucky Warbler.

What is your prior experience with this species and other similar species:
Kentucky Warbler: This is my first one.

List Books if helped with the identification: National Geographic Society's
Bird's of North America and Warblers of the Americas.

This report was made with notes taken during sighting. ~~Brandon K. Percival~~

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival. Signature: *Brandon K. Percival*

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