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Date: Tue, 26 Jan 1999 15:55:54 -0700**From:** "Brandon K. Percival" <flammowl@juno.com> [Add to Address Book](#)**Subject:** Kentucky Warbler report**To:** rednot@hotmail.com

CFO-ORC-FILE

1998-137

COLORADO RARE BIRD FORM

Species: Kentucky Warbler
(Vernacular Name)Oporornis formosus
(Scientific Name)**Dates:** October 17, 1996.
one.**Number of birds seen:****Sex:** unknown.**Plumage:** adult.**Locality:** West of the Valco Ponds Parking lot, along the Arkansas River.**Nearest town:** Pueblo.**County:** Pueblo.**Time observed:** 8:00-8:15 AM.**Duration of observation:** 2 minutes seeing it, and another 5 minutes hearing it chip.**Other observers with you:** Bob Dickson (who only saw the bird fly and heard it chip, he could not identify the bird on his own).**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** none.**Light conditions:** excellent.**Optical equipment:** 10X40 Baucsh & Lomb Binoculars.**Distance from bird:** 20 feet.

Describe the bird's behavior: I first noticed the bird when I heard an unfamiliar chip coming from behind me. I quickly spotted the bird and identified it as a Kentucky Warbler, as I was watching it I yelled for Bob Dickson who was 50 yards away. He came over and the bird disappeared. The bird was low (about 2- 3 feet off the ground) in a bush in the open giving good views. The bird moved into a more tangled area of the bushes to the south of the original location. The bird disappeared in the tangle. After trying unsuccessfully to relocate the bird. Dickson and I made Eastern Screech-Owl sounds and the distinct chip started again. We could not get a look at the bird, until we saw it fly from about 30 yards in front of us. After that I heard it chip from a russian olive once more and that was it, we could not re find the bird.

Describe the bird:

The size of the bird was a little bigger than the more common Yellow-rumped Warblers, which were in the same area. The shape of the bird was of a small song bird. The bird was a because of its size,

shape, behavior, and colors. The plumage of the bird was an adult male in fall plumage. The reason it was a male, is because it was a bright bird with black side burns. The bird was too bright for an immature male or female. The head had black on the forehead. The bird had a black triangle shaped patch on both sides of the face. The triangle was pointed down. The bird had a yellow eye line that goes behind the eye and goes around to the lower part of the eye. In front of the eyes were black. The eyes were dark. The bill was flesh colored. The nape was olive green. The back was olive green. The rump color was olive green. The tail was olive green. The wings were olive green without any different color on the wing bars. The throat was lemon yellow. The underparts were all lemon yellow. The under tail coverts were also lemon yellow. The legs and feet were flesh/pink colored. The tail was short. The bill was thin, short, and pointed. I identified the bird very quickly because it is very distinctive. The bird's face pattern and color made me know the bird was a Kentucky Warbler. (I had seen an adult male of this species in May 1995). I had wonderful views of this fall warbler and I am completely convinced it was a Kentucky Warbler.

Describe the bird's song and call if heard:
The bird made a loud chip.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
The bird was observed in a tangle area near the Arkansas River, in an eastern warbler trap called Valco Ponds, in Pueblo, east of the Pueblo Reservoir dam.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:
Hooded Warbler: This species has an all black hood around the yellow face. Not black trailing "sideburns".
Canada Warbler: This species has a necklace on the neck and white under tail coverts.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:
Kentucky Warbler: I have seen one adult male in breeding plumage at Lamar Community College, on May 5 and May 6, 1995 with Mark Janos and others.
Hooded Warbler: I have seen three in Colorado, one male at Lamar Community College on May 22, 1994, with Mark Janos; one female at Two Buttes Reservoir on May 3, 1996 with Mark Janos, Vic Zerbi, and Peter Gent; and one male at Two Buttes Reservoir on May 4 & May 5, 1996, which I found and was seen by many.
Canada Warbler: I have not seen this species.

List books if they helped in your identification:
I looked at National Geographic Society's Bird's of North America and The Warblers of the Americas after the sighting with Bob Dickson. These books did not influence this report.

This report was written from notes taken during __, or after observation
X or from memory__.

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival
Signature: _____
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