

APPENDIX II

Recd 7/3/99

1999 - 149

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

ACCEPT 7-0

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): 6-29-99 Time Bird Seen: 6:30 AM to 6:35 AM
7:35 AM to 7:45 AM

Locality: 1 mile WNW Craver Middle School
Colorado City, Pueblo County, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 10x40 Zeiss Binocular

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: Adult

Light conditions: Excellent - bird was often west of observer

Distance from bird, and how measured: 20 feet estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

This bird moved about a lot and constantly sang from 6:30 AM to 7:45 AM. It did more singing than feeding. From perches no higher than 15 feet from ground level.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian habitat along stream with mixed oak, cottonwood, and willow.

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

Paul Hurtado 107 Carlile Drive
Pueblo CO 81004

APPENDIX II 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. This warbler was chunky, short-tailed, somewhat pot-bellied, with fairly long flesh-colored legs. It was dark olive green above and solid yellow below from throat to undertail coverts. It had no wingbars.

Head & crown were dark with black sideburns extending alongside of contrasting yellow underparts. Yellow spectacles contrasted with dark crown and sideburns. Lores were dark. Bill was dark, slim, slightly down-curved. Eye was dark.

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

Call was a loud chur-rée, chur-rée, chur-rée with accent on last syllable which was higher than first syllable. Bird called from perch.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Common Yellowthroat can sometimes sound similar to Kentucky but has solid black mask and lacks yellow spectacles.

Yellow-breasted Chats are large with white spectacles. Chats' call are much more variable with often harsher notes.

Hooded Warbler & have yellow forecrown, face, and auriculars in contrast to Kentucky Warblers' dark auriculars and sideburns. Hooded Warblers have prominent light tail spots.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have seen many Chats & Yellowthroats. I have seen many Kentucky Warblers in Missouri and have seen Hooded Warblers 20-25 times.

This report was written from notes made during ✓ and ✓ observation;
from memory .

Name (print) : David Silverman

Mailing address: P. O. Box 362 Rye CO 81069

Signature: David A. Silverman

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

CFO-RC FILE #

1999-149

RESULTS: ACCEPT 70Red 7/3/99

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY)

SPECIES: Kentucky Warbler

(Common Name)

Oporornis Formosus

(Scientific Name)

DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: 6-29-99NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: Male PLUMAGE: AdultEXACT LOCATION: 1 mile WNW of Craver Middle SchoolCOUNTY: Pueblo NEAREST TOWN: Colorado City ELEVATION: 6400'LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 15 minutes TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 6:30-6:35 AM + 7:35-7:45 AM

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW THE BIRD(S) WITH YOU:

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

Paul Hurtado

LIGHT CONDITIONS (QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION):

Excellent light conditions - bird was south of observer 6:30 AMBird was west of observer 7:45 AM

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

10x40 Zeiss BinocularDISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 20 feetWAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? No IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? _____

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? _____

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

Riparian habitat along stream with mixed oak, cottonwood, & willow.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE THE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

This warbler was chunky short-tailed, somewhat pot-bellied with fairly long flesh-colored legs. It was dark olive green above and solid yellow below from throat to undertail coverts. It had no wingbars.

Head and crown were dark with black side burns extending along side of neck. yellow spectacles contrasted with dark crown + black side burns. Lores were dark. Bill was dark & slightly down-curved. Eye was dark.

DESCRIBE BIRD'S CALL OR SONG:

A loud "Chur-rée, chur-rée, chur-rée!" with emphasis on second syllable which was higher than first syllable.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

Common Yellowthroat can sometimes sound similar to Kentucky's but have solid black mask & lacks yellow spectacles.

Yellow-breasted Chats are larger with white spectacles and its call is much more variable and harsher than Kentucky Warblers.

Hooded Warbler ♀ have yellow fore-crown and prominent yellow auriculars in contrast to dark sideburns extending into auriculars of Kentucky warblers.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

I have seen many Chats + Yellowthroats. I have seen many Kentucky Warblers in Missouri. I have seen Hooded Warblers about 15-20 times.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ ^{and} ~~OR~~ AFTER ☒ OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY ____.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 6-29-99

REPORTING OBSERVER: David Silverman

SIGNATURE: David Silverman

OBSERVER ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 362
Rye, CO 81069

SEND REPORT TO:

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

c/o BILL LISOWSKY

2919 SILVERPLUME DR.

FT. COLLINS, CO 80526