

CBRC FILE #: 2002-134

(A)

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS – SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐ UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Species: Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*)

Date(s): 5 May 2002.

Number seen: one.

Sex: not sure, looked like a female.

Plumage: not sure, perhaps adult (female), or first spring (male) – not sure the difference between the two. It wasn't an adult male, as it didn't have much gray on the head, like I have seen with other Kentucky Warblers.

Locality: Below Two Buttes Reservoir dam.

Elevation: unknown.

Nearest town: Two Buttes.

County: Baca.

Time observed: 1pm to 130pm MDT off and on.

Duration of observation: 10 minutes.

Description (including habitats, and behaviors): I walking south along "warbler alley", below the dam at Two Buttes Reservoir, when I noticed a bird down low to my left. It had bright yellow underparts, and a greenish back. After getting a clear view of the bird, I could see the face pattern, with black going down from each eye, and a yellow eye brow stripe over each eye, and going below the eye at the rear. After seeing all that, I yelled back to Lisa Edwards and Sherry Chapman, saying that I was looking at a Kentucky Warbler. They came up and were able see the bird. However, the bird stayed low and sometime was hard to get good views of. Though, several times during the time we watched the bird, it was clearly in the open, giving great views. The bird moved east some, and then ended up being around the small pond west of the original location. The first area had some nearby water, and some very thick bushes, that bird liked to hide in. At first, I saw it on the ground near the log over the water. Lastly, I saw the bird around the pond, on the ground. When it was in the bushes it got off the ground. The bird wasn't with other birds and it always stayed very low, perhaps only getting a couple of feet off the ground.

The bird was a small songbird that was actively moving around near and on the ground. It was a warbler because, of the small pointy bill. The crown was greenish, with a touch of gray color. The nape, mantle (back), and tail were all greenish. The wings, including the scapulars, median coverts, greater coverts, and primary coverts (wings), we all the same color of greenish. The tertials, secondaries, and primaries were all greenish. Also, the upper tail coverts and tail were greenish. The bird had a yellow supercilium (eye line), that went from the bill to around the eye, and then below the eye. Below the yellow supercilium, the malar area was black, from in front of the eye going below the eye and down. This face pattern is distinctive for the species. The eyes were dark and bill was mostly dark except for a pinkish color near the base of the lower part of the bill and was thin and pointy (warbler like). The chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks; belly, vent, and undertail covers were all bright lemon yellow. The legs were thin and were pinkish. The feet looked the same color pinkish. The tail looked short and the under tail coverts looked fairly long.

Similar species eliminated:

Nothing has the same face pattern as a Kentucky Warbler, even though this bird wasn't an adult male. Male Hooded Warblers have a black hood going around a yellow face. Common Yellowthroats don't have all yellow under parts, and face pattern is different. Canada Warbler has a slate-gray back and white under tail covers. Wilson's Warblers don't have the same face pattern. Nashville, Mourning, MacGillivray's, and Connecticut Warblers have gray heads. Prothonotary Warblers have golden yellow heads, without black. Pine Warblers have wing bars, and aren't that bright yellow underneath. Prairie Warblers have black streaks going down each side/flanks. Kirtland's Warblers have a gray back with streaks. Magnolia Warblers have black streaks on the sides/flanks and white bars. Yellow

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Warblers don't have the black on the face. Blue-winged Warblers have a black line through each eye and have wing bars. The bird was a warbler, because of the bill shape and size, small and pointy.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):
Nothing heard.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen Kentucky Warblers several times in Colorado, and some in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. All of the species I mentioned above, I have seen in Colorado, except for Kirtland's Warbler, which I haven't seen.

Light conditions: Excellent, sunny, sun was pretty much straight over the observer. It was windy however.

Optical equipment used: 10 x 40 B&L binoculars.

Distance and how estimated: 15 to 20 feet away most of the time.

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Lisa Edwards and Sherry Chapman.

Other observers who saw the bird independently: None that I know of. Several birders were birding in this area earlier in the day, though didn't report seeing this bird. Though, other rarities were found that day, below Two Buttes Reservoir dam, including a White-eyed Vireo, which I couldn't find.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: not photographed.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, ect. Consulted and how this influenced your identification:
None needed.

a) at time of observation: none **b) after observation:** none.

This report is from notes made from (check one) ___ noted made during observation _X_ noted made after observation ___ later from memory.

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival

Signature: *Brandon K. Percival*

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Report finished: 2/9/03 5:57 PM