

52-90-50  
A  
DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAIR BIRD SIGHTING  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Cape May Warbler | Dendroica tigrina  
(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.

Date (s): December 1 1990 Time Bird Seen: 9:45AM to 10:15 AM

Locality: Colorado City, Pueblo County, Colorado - Trinidad Latilong #26  
First latilong #26 record -  
Nearest town, county and state: \_\_\_\_\_

Optical equipment: Zeiss 10x40 binocular

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Light conditions: Excellent

Distance from bird, and how measured: 10 feet to 15 feet estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior: This bird actively moved and fed in low tree branches, shrubs, and near the ground. At times it fed on the ground. It was quite tame & seemed undisturbed by my presence.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Elevation about 6500 feet Greenhorn Creek, Colorado City. Creek at this point heavily lined with shrubs & willows. The Cape May preferred a swampy pond formed by Beaver dams.

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



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. Bill was black, thin, & drooped slightly at tip, giving bill a slight down curved impression. Crown was dull brown olive as were the nape & back. The back had no streaks. Eyeline was dark above & below was a dull whitish gray supercilium. Eye was black. There was a dull grayish olive cheek patch, surrounded by fairly bright yellow below cheek patch. The yellow extended into the auricular region and into the nape. The yellow formed a distinct ~~semi-circular~~ semi-collar which partially surrounded the nape but which did not go all the way around the nape.

Wings were dull olive black. Each wing had two distinct white wing bars. The upper wing bar was more prominent becoming broader toward the front of bird and showing a small white patch. Wing bar became narrower as it approached bird's back. Rump was greenish yellow; it was distinct but not as prominent as yellow-rumped warblers. Tail was dull black with white spots at tip which were visible when bird flew. Throat was dull grayish white. Breast & flanks were heavily streaked on very pale yellowish white background. Streaks became less heavy towards center of bird's belly and undertail coverts which were white & not streaked. Legs were black.

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

The bird was mostly silent except for an occasional thin chip. - ".tzip"

List similar species and how you eliminated them: Yellow-rumped Warblers lack yellow nape collar and have streaked backs. Palm Warblers have yellow under tail coverts. Palm Warblers underparts are not as heavily streaked as Cape May's. Pine Warblers also lack Cape May's ~~streak~~ heavily streaked underparts. Fall Magnolia Warblers have prominent eye ring & more prominent tail spots. The Cape May I saw had no eyering & small tail spots on each side of tail tip. Fall Townsend & Black-Throated Green Warblers lack heavily streaked underparts of Cape May. They also lack yellowish rump which contrasts with olive green back.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have seen Cape May's in Michigan & the one that wintered in Denver at Lakewood feeder several years ago.

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

NAME (print): David Silverman

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

Signature: David Silverman

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205

XC Hugh Kingery