

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X

Rcd 11/18/00 upl

Species: Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrinus*)**Date:** 7 November 2000**Number seen:** one**Sex:** male?**Plumage:** Basic I**Locality:** south side of Ouray**Elevation:** about 8100'**Nearest town:** Ouray**County:** Ouray**Time observed:** about 16:15 - 16:16 MDT**Duration of observation:** total of about 1 minute

Description: While birding in Ouray looking for more rarities and late migrants (we had already seen quite a few in the past two days), Doug noticed a warbler fly across the street over our heads and land in a small tree in front of us. He alerted the others of us, and I quickly found it perched in the tree. It was obviously an immature Tennessee Warbler and I immediately called out the identification to the group. We got to watch it foraging in a couple different apple trees for up to a minute, at which point it flew further north out of sight.

The bird was a small warbler, much smaller than the Myrtle Warbler we had just seen. It was largely bright, yellowish-green (head, back, wings, rump, tail, throat, breast, and belly) with a bright white vent. The underparts were more yellow and the upperparts were more green. The black bill was very thin and strongly pointed. The bird had a distinct, darkish eyeline below a yellow superciliary. The wings were a bit darker than the back and had thin, yellowish wing bars. The legs were black. There was no gray anywhere on the bird and it had no suggestion of streaking on the underparts. The wings were quite long with extensive primary projection and the plain tail was noticeably short. As the bird was very bright, it may have been a male.

Similar species eliminated by description: There are only a few species that can be confused with an immature Tennessee Warbler. Orange-crowned Warbler should show a yellowish vent and would also have much shorter primary projection and a longer tail, producing a very different wing/tail ratio than was present on the bird in question. Immature female Yellow Warbler can have the same color pattern, but that species has a much stouter bill and would have obvious yellow tail spots on a longer tail.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): none heard

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen 1000s each of Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Yellow Warbler.

Light conditions: sun behind me and to my left and behind mostly-overcast skies

Optical equipment used: Swarovski 8x42 EL

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest distance at about 5 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Doug Faulkner and Nelda Gamble

Other observers who saw the bird independently: none

If photographed, type of equipment and film: I did not photograph

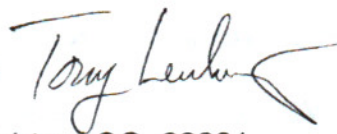
List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Leukering', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Address: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: This report was written on 11 November 2000 from brief notes written shortly after the time of the sighting and from memory.