

APPENDIX II

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

Species: Tennessee Warbler ; Vermivora peregrina
(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): Oct 1, 1986 Time Bird Seen: 4:43pm to approx 1 min.

Locality: 100 yd E of 30th & D Rds
Al. Hwy, Colo. Mesa County
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7X35 Binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♀? Plumage: adult

Light conditions: fair to good. Sun 45° above & to left of line of sight
Distance from bird, and how measured: 25 ft estimated behind cloud

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Bird flushed from ragweed patch, alt on bare tamarisk branch, sat fairly still for 30-45 seconds, flew directly into cottonwood tree 50 yards east and disappeared

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
Mixed tamarisk, cottonwood, ragweed adjacent to sewer lagoon and permanent shallow pond

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

Coen Dexter identified Tennessee warblers
in this area twice in the previous week.
He is sending a report.

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.

gray back, head, tail - fairly dark, back and tail brownish gray, head slightly lighter, small, straight, dark "warbler" beak, no wingbars visible, underparts whitish with faint yellowish wash across throat, breast, upper half of sides, belly, undertail coverts whitish. Old white eyeline over faint dark eyeline through the eye no streaking anywhere. Same size or slightly smaller than orange-crowned.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: No vocalization heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Orange-crowned warbler - eye streak, and underparts very much whiter, absence of streaking. This bird was associated with a small group of orange-crowned warblers.

Warbling Vireo - bill much slimmer, straighter, bird smaller

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I first saw this kind this summer in No. Minnesota. The white in those summer birds was more strikingly white than this bird, but otherwise similar.

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

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Signature: Richard Levad

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
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