

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

52-90-52

A

Species: Black-throated Green Warbler
(Vernacular name)

Dendroica virens
(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): 28 April & 3 May 1990 Time Bird Seen: ~14:00 to ~14:05 May 3
~10:00 am to ~10:50 am on April 28

Locality: Rocky Ford State Wildlife Area
Rocky Ford, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: breeding

Light conditions: Excellent; bright sun

Distance from bird, and how measured: From 20 feet to 150 feet; estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Foraging high in larger cottonwoods, and lower in smaller trees. Also seen in fruit trees. Usually near outer edge of crown or out along branch tips. Moderately active and quiet. Foraged by picking, upright, along branches for small insects. Occasionally gave a chip note during short flights.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian woodland; mixed fruit trees & old orchard

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

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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.

Medium-sized warbler, about 5-5½" long. Tail medium length. Bill small, slender, pointed and black. Eyes black. Chin, throat, upper breast and flanks black, turning into black streaks on sides. Undersides all white with a pale yellowish wash on undertail coverts. Bright yellow face with indistinct grayish eyeline. Yellowish-green to olive crown, nape, back and rump. (Rump slightly yellower than rest) Back clean, unstreaked olive. Wings blackish with 2 distinct white wingbars. White flash in spread tail.

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

Silent on 4-27. On 5-3 gave a strong, sharp chip, reminiscent of yellow-rumped (Aud.) Warbler.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Black chin & throat on yellow-patterned warblers eliminate all other warblers but Townsend's & Hermit Warblers.

Townsend's = has blackish face patch & yellow breast with striped back.

Hermit = has stark yellow face, streaked grayish (not olive) back and unstreaked flanks.

Golden-cheeked = has black back.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen this and other similar warblers

This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
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