COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

52-72-4 accepted 2/8/73 GR

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: Chestnut-sided Warbler | Dendroica pensylvanica? Number: 1
(Vernacular Name) (mm ♀) (Scientific Name)

3. Location: East Animas Valley 3 miles northeast of Durango

4. Date(s): September 24, 1972 5. Time bird seen; 6:00 to 6:15 P.M.

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):
The rump and back was greenish yellow extending onto the head where the top of head was bright green yellow. There was a very narrow white eye ring (bare area). The underparts were light gray with a touch of yellow around legs and vent area. The gray color was extended up to and around the dark eye. There were two light yellow wing bars on the dark green wings. The tail was about the same color as the wings. Legs were dark

7. Description of voice, if heard: The only sounds heard were probably coming from the Audubons Warbler, which was also in the bushes

8. Description of behavior: Typical warbler flitting (Here one minute gone the next)

9. Habitat--general: Built up Farm land with several Houses
specific: Hedge row of Russian Olive near irrigation ditch.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:
Solitary Vireo - no spectacles present and not vireo shape or movement
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - One was present for good Comparison

11. Distance (how measured?): 4 to 15 feet, estimated

12. Optical equipment: 7X35 Bushnell Binocular

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):
Subdued light (evening on cloudy day)

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: None

15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?
I had not seen any bird with the bright green yellow cap on head

16. Other observers:
Florence Whiteman and Pat Roberts

17. Did others agree with your identification? Yes

18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
Sort of a community Project. We each decided then talked it over

19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: North American Birds
Birds of Colorado
Birds of America
Earth Life Hertoner
Peterson Field Guide (Western)
Just gave us some idea on what to look for

20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

Richard Stransky Street Address: 175 West 29th Street
Signature
Date Prepared: November 26, 1972 City and State: Durango, Colorado 81301

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)

After we had observed the bird for several minutes we each went home and studied and looked at field guides. When I had decided on what I thought it was I called Pat. He had also come up with the same identification. I then went back to Florence Whitmans and discussed the bird. She agreed it was an immature female and said she would watch for the bird the next day.

About the same time and in the same bushes she saw the bird again. 9/25/72. This time she looked for the diffrent field marks we might have overlooked. Again it ended up immature female chestnut-sided Warbler.

52-72-4
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1/8/73 JR

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Report of Unusual Sight Record

Species : Chestnut-sided Warbler **Date :** 9/24/72 **Hour :** 6:00 pm.

Location : 3 miles north on east Animas valley

Habitat : near farm buildings with Russian olive, choke cherry & scrub oak predominant

Who first noted the bird? Florence Whiteman

Others who confirmed identification? Pat Roberts, Richard Stransky

Did you know it was unusual when you observed it? Yes

Did you have a good opportunity for observation (time, light, view, binoculars or spotting-scope)? observed for about 20 minutes, good light but subdued, view from 30 ft to 4 ft, binoculars were used.

What experience have you had with this species previously? None.

How did you identify the bird? Describe in detail what you saw and heard in the field.

The bird had a bright green back extending onto the head; the underparts were a light gray color except for an inconspicuous yellow color on the flanks; the gray color extended over the top of the eye; an eye ring was present but was narrow; 2 wing bars were present, yellowish in color; the eye & legs were dark; the tail & wings were dark with greenish cast to them; wings seemed to have black in them near the center of the birds back; some white was in the tail.

What other similar species might it have been? How were these eliminated?

Solitary vireo - it didn't have spectacle; under parts were all gray.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - a it didn't flick its wings like a Kinglet; a ruby-crowned kinglet was present for comparison

Name : Pat Roberts **Date :** 9/25/72

Address : Rt. 1 Box 383 Durango, Colo 81301

52-72-4
accepted
2/8/73 JR

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Report of Unusual Sight Record

Species : Chestnut Sided Warbler Date : 9/24/72 Hour : about 6 P.M

Location : 3 miles up East Animas Valley - Durango Colo.

Habitat : Russian Olive Trees & Oak.

Who first noted the bird? Florence Whiteman.

Others who confirmed identification? R. Stransky & Pat Roberts

Did you know it was unusual when you observed it? yes

Did you have a good opportunity for observation (time, light, view, binoculars or spotting-scope)? late afternoon 7 X 35 MM. binoculars, at a distance less than 50' & two different viewings

What experience have you had with this species previously? none

How did you identify the bird? Describe in detail what you saw and heard in the field. by noting the markings and kind of feed, the size and the fact other warblers were in the trees. When Roberts & Stransky with reference books & a process of elimination determined it an immature chestnut sided warbler. -

What other similar species might it have been? How were these eliminated?

Audubon Warbler Townsend Warbler & Wilson Warbler the the next five days I watched it the Ruby Crown Kinglet was in the trees too. The color of the head and neck & back were a greenish yellow, the two wing bars were lite yellow, the tail feathers were white on either side & end of tail, while mid tail was a darker brown & end was slightly rounded. - Wings were streaked. Dark eye with slight crested eye ring - yellow on head came to top of eye - throat was lite almost white & so was the belly. - lite slender legs & dark mandible.

Name : FLORENCE WHITEMAN Date : Sept - 24 - 1972

Address : RT 1 Box 498 DURANGO, Colo. 81301

(Use other side or additional pages if needed.)