SPRING 1979

52-80-73

APPENDIX II

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

A

Species: Chestnut-sided Warbler (Vernacular name); Dendroica pensylvánica (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): 20 May 1979 Time Bird Seen: 7:30 am to 8:10 am (periodically)

Locality: Hanna Ranch, (Colo. Div. of Wildlife Property) Fountain Colo. - El Paso Co.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Bushnell Binocs 8x40

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: -

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

Light conditions: Fairly good at 7:30. by 8:10 high overcast prevailed w/ filtered light.

Distance from bird, and how measured: closest: 10 m. range: 10m-75m.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Moving about area in long sporatic flights; then feeding amid willows. Appeared to be flycatching from perch & gleaning amid buds of shrubs. Very active + flitting.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Cottonwood-willow riverbottom-riparian corridor N. from Arkansas River along Fountain Creek, Beaver Pond/cat-tail marsh area- observed in 6 hectare area below beaver dam. Preferred willow/tamarisk growth-mid level vegetation.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
Lynn Grace 1238 Wood Ave. Apt. 5 Colo. Spgs. CO. 80903

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.

- white breast split by rust line or stripes. Brilliant but narrow rust stripe.
- Black line extends from rust to form eyeline
- yellow cap - yellow cast to shoulders
- wing bars

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

No song or call given.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Combination of yellow cap + rust line on sides - black eye strip = no other bird!
(I did not evaluate others much because of familiarity of this species)

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Commonly seen in Connecticut where I previously lived.

This report was written from notes made during ✓ after ____ observation; from memory ✓. didn't take as many fields notes as plumage is so distinct + I'm quite familiar of this bird.

Name (print) : Margaret L. Abbott

Mailing address: 1314 N. Arcadia Colo. Spgs. CO. 80903

Signature: Margaret L Abbott

Return Form To:

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