

Species: Red-Faced Warbler
(Vernacular name)Cardellina rubrifrons
(Scientific name)

52-93-3

27-15
27-16

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): May 3, 1993 Time Bird Seen: ^{Heard &} 6:45 am to 7:05 amLocality: Wheatridge Greenbelt
Wheatridge, Jefferson County, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: Bushnell 10x40 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Copies of photos by Duane Nelson are submitted with this reportNumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: adultLight conditions: Bright morning sunlightDistance from bird, and how measured: 100 ft. (estimate)

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

It was actively foraging in a tree (maple?), stopping frequently to sing (every 30 seconds or so). It was moving almost constant in typical warbler fashion.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Foraging in deciduous tree (maple?) on crest of north facing slope. Immediate area was quite heavily vegetated with deciduous trees, shrubs, etc. Tree bordered on a suburban yard at top of slope.

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

Joe Roller (photographed)Paula Hansley (independently identified it)Duane Nelson (photographed), Golden, CO plus many other observers on 5/3.

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.

First view was of a small (est. 5") bird flitting actively through foliage of a tree. By its song, size, and actions, I guessed it was a warbler. When it came into clear view, my first sight was the scarlet red face, throat, and upper breast with a black patch on the top and side of the head. Based on previous experience in AZ, instantly recognized it as a Red-Faced Warbler. Closer observation revealed the white patch on the neck. Bird's back and wings were smoky gray, the belly appeared to be very light gray (almost white), and the tail appeared to be darker gray. Bill quite small and dark. Eye was dark. Rump was paler gray than back, wings, or tail.



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

Song was what attracted my attention. I guessed it was a warbler, but it was not a familiar song. Song was quite musical. The bird was singing repeatedly (estimate once every 30 seconds or so) making it relatively easy to locate.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Red-Faced Warbler plumage is unique. There are no similar species in North America including Mexico.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have seen Red-Faced Warblers on several occasions in Arizona.

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

NAME (print): Dick Schotter

Mailing address: 25 S. Indiana Place, Golden, CO 80401

Signature: Dick Schotter 5/5/83

Return to:

~~Wash. D.C.~~
~~263 Wisconsin Street~~
~~Denver, Colorado 80206~~

SPECIES: RED-FACED WARBLER | CARDUINALIS RUBRIFRONS
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

DATE(S): 5-3-93 TIME OF OBSERVATION: ~ 11:45 TO 12:00

EXACT LOCATION: WHEAT RIDGE GREENBELT, ^{SOUTH} OF THE TREE BRIDGE

NEAREST TOWN: WHEAT RIDGE COUNTY: _____

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

SUZY PLOOSTER, J. B. HAYES, ALAN & DEE HAY, JOEY KELLNER

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: ZEISS 10X40 BINOCULARS

WEATHER CONDITIONS: SUNNY

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: SUN NOT A FACTOR

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 30 YDS MAX - 10 YDS MIN ESTIMATED

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: ? PLUMAGE: ADULT

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: THE BIRD WAS INTENTLY FORAGING FOR FOOD THE ENTIRE TIME I OBSERVED IT. IT CONTINUALLY WORKED ALL OVER BRANCHES, AND DID NOT STAY IN ONE AREA FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. THE BIRD DID NOT SEEM TO NOTICE OUR PRESENCE, EVEN WHEN IT WORKED DOWN CLOSE TO US. IT WAS A VERY COOPERATIVE BIRD. THERE WERE NO LEG BANDS, AND NO EVIDENCE OF FEATHER WEAR AS WOULD BE FOUND IN CAPTIVE SPECIES.

HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.):

THE ENTIRE FOREHEAD WAS RED FROM THE BILL UP TO A LINE THAT WAS VERTICAL TO THE FRONT EDGE OF THE EYE. FROM THAT AREA BACK WAS A BLACK "RIBBON" THAT WENT BACK TO ALMOST THE VERY BACK OF THE HEAD. THE BACK OF THE HEAD WAS WHITISH GRAY.

EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.):

THE BIRD HAD AN ALMOST COMPLETE RED EYERING. THE EYE WAS DARK, AND MOSTLY LOCATED IN THE BLACK AREA. THE FRONT OF THE EYE TUCKERIZED.

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): THE BILL WAS DARK (BLACKISH/GRAY), AND NOT ESPECIALLY LONG.

LEGS & FEET: I DID NOT MAKE NOTE OF THE FOOT & LEG COLOR. IT WAS DARKER, BUT I CANNOT BE EXACT.

UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): NAPE DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF BACK WAS A MEDIUM SLATE GRAY. THE RUMP WAS A CRIMSON/GRAY AREA.

UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.):

THE CHIN DOWN THE THROAT AND CHEST TO THE BELLY WAS RED. THE BELLY WAS WHITE, WHICH EXTEND UP TO THE FOLDED WING ON THE FLANKS.

RETRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):

THE TAIL WAS THE SAME GRAY THAT SHOWED A LITTLE DARKER ON THE EDGES.

WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): I DID NOT MAKE NOTE OF THE WING FULLY EXTENDED. WHILE FOLDED THE WING APPEARED DARK GRAY TO BLACK.

THERE WAS A SLIGHT LIGHT GRAY WING BAR APPROXIMATELY AT THE LESSER/MEDIUM WING COVERTS.

VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):

THE BIRD SANG A FEW TIMES, BUT I DID NOT TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT IT SOUNDED LIKE.

HABITAT: THICK BRUSHY AREA THAT HAD A GOOD CANOPY AND A THICK UNDERSTORY.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

A HOUSE FINCH HAS RED ON IT, BUT A DIFFERENT SHADE OF RED. IT ALSO IS A FINCH WHICH IS SHADDED MUCH DIFFERENTLY. A CARDINAL SHOWS A LOT OF RED ALSO. HOWEVER, THIS BIRD DID NOT HAVE A CROWN, IT HAD A GRAY BACK, AND THE BLACK PATCH ON THE HEAD IS MISSING ON A CARDINAL. ON A VERMILION FLYCATCHER THE DARK PATCH EXTENDS AROUND THE BACK OF THE HEAD, AND NOT OVER THE TOP. IT ALSO DOES NOT HAVE A WHITE BELLY OR GRAY BACK. THIS BIRD WAS NOT BIG ENOUGH TO BE A TANAGER, AND DID NOT HAVE A TANAGER TYPE BILL.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

THIS IS THE FIRST RED FACED WARBLER I HAVE EVER SEEN. HOUSE FINCHES BREED IN MY YARD. I GREW UP IN THE MIDWEST, AND SAW CARDINALS AND VERMILION. I HAVE SEEN ONE BREEDING PLUMAGE MALE ~~VERMILION~~ VERMILION FLYCATCHER.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING AFTER, OBSERVATION; ☒ FROM MEMORY

NAME: STEVE STACHOWICZ SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 7-27-95