

APPENDIX II

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

A

Species: Connecticut Warbler; Oporornis agilis
(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): May 19, 1979 Time Bird Seen: aprx 1430 to 1530Locality: Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld Co., Colorado

In Willow/Cottonwood grove, 100 meters East of Intersection
Nearest town, county and state:
of roads 100 and 57.

Optical equipment: Swift Audubon 8.5 x 44 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: Spring adult

Light conditions: Good; different attitudes of birds and partly sunny
nature of day provided various perspectives for observations.
Distance from bird, and how measured: From 3 to 20 meters;
distance guestimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Bird was seen on ground and in snags at base of willows frequently. Willows were surrounded by water. From ground it would pluck insects from water and ground. Most of activity was flitting from place to place within and among snags. Stayed in snags for up to a minute at a time then it would emerge (over) Willow/cottonwood grove in shallow water. Grove was L-shaped and constituted the only vegetation standing within miles of this spot. Surrounding grassland was grazed (as was this area). No shrub undergrowth.

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

William Ervin, E.P.O. Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder 80309

ze: Although I did not consciously take notice of size differences between this bird and nearby MacGillivray male, I recall no obvious size differences between the 2 birds.

Length of undertail coverts: From base of tail to tip, the coverts extended slightly more than half the way to the tip. I would guess the distance from tip of tail to tip of coverts was 2 cm. Covert tip was rounded, not pointed.

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. Upperparts: Uniform olive-green from tail to occipital region shading ever-so-slightly to a grayer color on the crown. Wings also were olive-green on the topside. Underparts: Bright yellow from undertail coverts to belly. Color transition to the grey breast region was distinct, but not abrupt as in the male MacGillivray Warbler. Grey breast area was not streaked across with black, but was rather a uniform dull grey. Throat was paler than breast, appearing dusky white. Mandible was a pinkish-yellow, contrasting with a darker upper mandible. Eyering: Complete; moderately bold, however, not as bold as shown in Robbins, et al, Birds of North America, ^{for Connecticut Warbler} Thinner, but still present in loral region. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: No vocalizations

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Nashville Warbler: By the grey hood extending down through breast and the dusky-white throat.

Mourning Warbler: By the presence of a full eyering

MacGillivray Warbler: By the presence of a full eyering. I tried to observe the length of the undertail coverts of a nearby male MacGillivray, but I could get no clear observation of relative length. Size differences not used as distinguishing character. Prior experience with this and similar species:

No experience with Mourning Warblers or Connecticut Warblers. In three years I've seen perhaps 40 MacGillivray Warblers both in fall and spring, immatures and adults.

Additional Note: Male MacGillivray and this bird were never seen to interact, nor were they ever closer than about 10 meters from each other. ^{This report was written from notes made during} However, they foraged similarly, from memory x.

Name (print) : Mark Holmgren

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Signature: Mark Holmgren

Return Form To:

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