

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

52-90-64

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.

Date (s): 24 May 1990 Time Bird Seen: 13:30 to 15:30
(Seen 5 times for a total of ≥ 10 minutes)
Locality: Ft. Lyons Wildlife Easement observation time during this time
Ft. Lyons V.A. Medical Center; Las Animas COLO.
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: Good, but indirect & diffuse. Dappled sunlight & shade.

Distance from bird, and how measured: As close as 6 feet (!) Estimated, to 30 feet.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird fairly secretive, always kept to dense tangles or brush piles, on or near forest floor. Always in understory, under heavy growth of sapling elms. Bird seen either on ground or on sticks or tangles, perching on bare branchlets. Picks along branches & twigs, methodically walking along. Once flew to a small branch on ground (~6ft from me) with a small moth in bill, which it ate. Bird stayed

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

upright (or tilted forward to hop to ground) when underlaid cover could be seen. Fairly inconspicuous, quiet & secretive.

Small grove, essentially riparian in nature

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

None

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the tricky 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.

Overall medium-sized, about 5 1/2" long. Med.-large bill was dark with lighter cutting edge below. Wings, tail and back plain unmarked olive-dull with no wingbars. Head grayish (dull) with brownish tint to face and bib. Grayish nape blends smoothly at rear, into olive back. Bib light gray without black lower border; bib fades to off-white in center of bib & throat. Rest of undersparts, including belly, vent & undertail coverts, clear yellow. Undertail coverts (seen clearly several times, as bird tipping forward) were very long, reaching almost to tip of tail, coming to ~1 cm. front end of tail. Underside of tail dull gray, contrasting with yellow undertail coverts. Face dull light gray, with clear, fairly wide, distinct complete round white eyering encircling eye (on both sides of head). The eyering, clear, distinct & white, are the most obvious & distinctive fieldmark. Pink legs.

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

Silent

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Basic pattern, olive above, yellow below & gray head, indicates one of hooded Oporornis warblers.

This bird had long undertail coverts, complete white eye-rings and walking habits.

Mourning Warbler = lacks bold complete eyering; shorter undertail coverts; hops.

MacGillivray's Warbler = has crescent-shaped broken eyerings, shorter undertail coverts; hops doesn't walk.

I've seen ♂ & ♀ Connecticut & Mourning Warblers on several occasions over the last 12 years. I've seen many MacGillivray's 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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