

CFO-ORC FILE # 52-96-87

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

accepted 6-1NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒noted 9-17-96

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Connecticut Warbler
(Vernacular Name)Oporornis agilis
(Scientific Name)Date(s): 27 May 1996Number of birds seen: 1Sex: malePlumage: AdultLocality: Tamarack Ranch SWA, road on southElevation: 3700'

Side of N. Platte River, 0.5 m. west of SR 55

Nearest town: CrookCounty: LoganTime(s) observed: 1:10 PM → 1:30 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 6 or 7 views of 1-20 sec. each

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Joe Mammoser 2919 WorthingtonFort Collins, CO 80526 970/223-2187

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Heavy overcastOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x50 Nikon binocularDistance, and how measured: From 8' to 30 yardsIf photographed, type of equipment and film: _____Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Associated with thickets. First flew up from base of 15' willow, set amid dense currant, snowberry and coyote willow shrubs (Bell's vireo habitat). Bird stayed near or on the ground, flushed & flew, usually landed on lower branches of trees, then dropped down out of sight. Never did see if it hopped or walked. Bird never flushed from spot where it landed, but usually from a spot 5-15' distant.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern.

Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

Large, plump warbler. Gray (slightly lighter than gray-headed form of dark-eyed junco) head and upper chest; green-olive back, wings & tail; medium yellow on lower chest, belly and undertail coverts. Bold, complete, white eyering (gave the bird a "wide-eyed" look). Legs longish and pink. Eye black. No wingbars. Do not recall color of bill. The posture of the bird was usually erect, with the head somewhat up and tail somewhat up. The undertail coverts extended far out on the tail. The belly was rounded and plump. The bird in flight was very rapid and fairly direct. It never flew higher than 15' above the ground. Upon landing, usually on the lower limb of a tree free of leaves, the bird would remain essentially motionless for a period of seconds, then drop into the understory vegetation. It did not flush.

Description (continued):

when we pursued it until almost stepped on. The first time we saw it fly, it had moved almost 20' from the willow base to the edge of the dirt lane - then it flew up, across the lane, and landed in a cottonwood. I heard the bird giving a call note shortly before and after dead limbs. I heard the bird giving a call note shortly before and after the first time it flushed. Reminded me of a yellow warbler, chip - very unlike the harsh call note of MacGillivray's warbler. I am unfamiliar with call note of mourning warbler.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian gallery forest (overstory consisted mostly of cottonwood, with scattered green ash, boxelder, crack willow, coyote willow). Understory trees/shrubs were coyote willow, snowberry, currant (yellow-flowers), and others.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Eyering was bright white, wide and complete. This was clearly seen from various distances & angles. It separates Connecticut from the other Oporornis warblers. Size, habitat & ground-affinity plus the gray "hood" eliminated Nashville warbler. The extended undertail coverts were an extra mark. The call note was very unlike MacGillivray's. Flushed at last-second, then sat in open, then

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen 100+ MacGillivray's. I saw one Connecticut warbler in Vermont in 1961. I have seen one mourning warbler in CO, several in the East. hid - different behavior than MacGillivray's

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: Nat'l. Geo. guide.

Warblers of the Americas by Curson et al

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation X from memory X.
Date and time report was written: 27 May '96 10 PM

Reporting observer: David A. Leatherman Signature: David A. Leatherman

Address: 612 Stover St. #7 Ft. Collins, CO 80524 970/416-0193 (H)

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:
Return to:

970/491-6303 (W)

Bill Prather
13810 WCR 1
Longmont, CO 80504
303-776-2191

52-96-87

SPECIES: CONNECTICUT WARBLEROPROORNIS AGILIS

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

DATE(S): 5-27-76TIME OF OBSERVATION: 1:30 TO 2:10EXACT LOCATION: TAILORBACK RANCH STATE WILDLIFE AREANEAREST TOWN: CROOKCOUNTY: LOGAN

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

DAVE LEATHERMANOPTICAL EQUIPMENT: DAVID'S LUMB 8X36 CUSTOM BINSWEATHER CONDITIONS: VERY COOL, SOMEWHAT WINDY, OVERCASTBIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: BIRD IN FRONT, NO SUN SHININGDISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 30 FEET APPROXIMATEDNUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: MALE PLUMAGE: BREEDING

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: THE BIRD WAS QUITE SECRETIVE. THE ONLY TIME IT WOULD ALLOW US TO SEE IT WAS WHEN WE WOULD FLUSH IT TO A NEW THICKET OR TANGLE. AT THAT TIME IT WOULD PERCH 2-3 FT OFF THE GROUND IN SIGHT FOR 10-15 SECONDS BEFORE PLUNGING BACK INTO THE THICK STUFF. AS WE WOULD APPROACH, THE BIRD WOULD MOVE ALONG THE GROUND AWAY FROM US (I NEVER SAW IT ON THE GROUND)

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

THE ENTIRE HEAD (CROWN, FACE, NAPE, THROAT) WAS A MEDIUM GRAY; LIGHTER THAN ON MCGILLIVRAYS WARBLER.

EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.): THE EYE WAS DARK, BORDERED BY A COMPLETE WHITE EYE RING SIMILAR TO THE EYERING OF A VIRGINIA'S WARBLER

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): THE BILL APPEARED ALL DARK

LEGS & FEET:

UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): THE BACK AND TAIL COVERTS APPEARED UNIFORM DARKISH OLIVE; THE GRAY HAD CONTRASTED NOTICEABLY WITH THE DARKER BACK

UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.): THE UNDERPARTS APPEARED TO BE LEMON YELLOW; THE UNDERTAIL COVERTS WERE VERY LONG - EXTENDING $\frac{3}{4}$ OF THE TAIL LENGTH; THERE WAS NO BREAK IN THE YELLOW

RETRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):
TAIL APPEARED DARK OLIVE, SIMILAR TO THE RUMP AND BACK

WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): THE WINGS WERE THE
SAME DARKISH OLIVE AS THE BACK

VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):
I HEARD ONE FAINT CHIP NOTE

HABITAT: THICKETS, TANGLES AT THE BASE OF TREES, DOWNED LOGS
WITH CHEST-HIGH BRUSH

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

THE ONLY OTHER WARBLER WITH THE COMBINATION OF OLIVE UPPER PARTS,
YELLOW UNDERNEATH, WHITE EYE RING AND GRAY HEAD IS THE NASHVILLE.
THE LONG UNDERTAIL COVERTS AND THE GRAY THROAT RULE OUT THE
NASHVILLE. THE COMPLETE EYE RING AND COMPLETE GRAY HOOD RULES OUT
FEMALE OPOORNIS WARBLERS. THE ONLY OTHER WARBLER EVEN REMOTELY
SIMILAR IS THE FEMALE BACHMAN'S, BUT THE YELLOW UNDERTAIL
COVERTS RULE THAT OUT.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

I HAVE OBSERVED A COUPLE OF CONNECTICUT WARBLERS IN NORTHERN
WISCONSIN. I HAVE OBSERVED NUMEROUS NASHVILLE WARBLERS BACK
EAST AND IN COLORADO. I HAVE NEVER SEEN A BACHMAN'S WARBLER.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

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

NAME: JOE MAMMOSER SIGNATURE: Joe Mammoser DATE: 5-31-96