

## APPENDIX II

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

Species: Swainson's Warbler ; Limnothlypis swainsonii  
(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): 5/17/86 Time Bird Seen: @ 9:30 a.m. to for 5 minutes

Locality: Bear Creek Park, nature center trail  
Colo. Springs, El Paso, Co.  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Light conditions: Fair to Good; cloudy day w/ intermittent light snow.

Distance from bird, and how measured: 20-30', estimated; bird 12-15' from ground, vertically

Describe the bird's overall behavior: perched + singing in top of scrub oak; flitting from branch to branch intermittently. Left oaks after 5 mins., flew into undergrowth.  
Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Could not find after that. Riparian; 30-40' from stream, dense undergrowth w/ cottonwoods + scrub oak.

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

none

APPENDIX 1I 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.

I saw a warbler-sized bird w/ a <sup>thin</sup> warbler-type bill, with a rusty brown cap; a dull brown, generally ~~un~~ unmarked back/upperparts. White to buffy underneath; seemed slightly more buffy under tail. Hint of a line through eye, very faint. (I was looking at the bird from below, bird was about 12-15' high in tree.) No streaking on underparts, no wing bars, no eye ring.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery--

i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: From perch. A rich, almost bubbling couple of notes w/ a musical trill (?). (I'm not sure trill is the right word.) Very loud, strong song. Markedly unfamiliar to me, unlike any I'm used to hearing here.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Thought it was Tenn. Warbler at first; however, back was not grey/green, head not grey, song not of Tenn. which I had heard singing 2 days before. Not Worm-Eating - no dark stripes on head. Tried to call it a Red-Eyed Vireo - song not of a vireo; this bird's

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Saw 1 previous to this, approx. 1 month ~~ago~~ prior, in Texas. Cap was dark, no black stripe, Not a Vireo song.

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_ observation;  
from memory X.

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Signature: Virginia Maynard

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
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