

Toni Breunler
July 16, 1992
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CFO-ORC FILE # 52-92-16

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Swainson's Warbler | Limnethlypis swainsonii
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): Thursday July 16, 1992 5:30

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

Locality: Mountain Creek Regional Park Elevation: 5500

Nearest town: Fountain County: El Paso

Time(s) observed: 1

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1 minute \pm in full view
5 minutes \pm of glimpses

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

NONE

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

Mark Janos 10 Sedum Court Pueblo Co 719-544-5002

Brandon Percival 835 Harmony Dr Pueblo West Co 719-547-3722

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

overcast gloomy intermittent rain

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Rough and ready plate 8x32

Distance, and how measured: 15 feet estimate

If photographed, type of equipment and film: No

Who else photographed the bird? ?

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

I was attracted to this particular willow because of the sound of scolding birds. I saw that there were 3 birds in the tree chasing each other in and out of the leaves and up and down the tree. At the start I thought Vireo's? warblers? then I had a very good look at a Red-eyed Vireo and saw the pale supercilium whose upper border was edged by dark feathers and also the red eye and the dark line through the eye. The bill was thick. Then I had a fairly clear view of the

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:

This bird similar in size to the Red-eyed Vireo. The bill was heavier than the Virginian warblers dark & sharply pointed. The crown was a reddish brown, the supercilium was pale whitish-grey, the eye was dark and the eye line was quite broad and dark (appeared black) a little narrower in front of the eye. The throat was whitish, unmarked, as was the side of the breast and the flanks. I did not see the legs. The nape was brown. The back was brown-olive. The wings lacked the olive undertones.

wood pecker 18 ^{5:00} PM Thurs 7-16
 no. 1 fish
 brown
 T. short

July 18 1992

19 } Singing
 19 } in tree



Virginia's Warbler - smaller than the Red-eyed Vireo a small sharp pointed bill white orbital ring - greyish head and back whitish underparts with yellow undertail coverts. Then the 3 birds flew over my head, to the top of a small elm behind me, and continued to chase each other and I am trying to identify the 3rd bird when they flew back into the tree where I first saw them and out pops this bird about 2 feet from the ground. I can see all of the bird except the tail (which was obscured by a willow leaf). There was the 3rd bird about the same size as the Red-eyed Vireo but this bird had a large pointed bill, a rusty red crown, a pale whitish supercilium a dark line through the eye. The back was a brownish olive more brown on the nape. There were no wing bars and the flank (what I could see of it) was whitish (see drawing)

Description (continued):

of the back and there were no wing bars. There was no contrast between the coverts and the wing feathers. I did not see the tail.

over for drawing →

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

NONE

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

The bird was seen low in a willow tree along a small drainage ditch which is also bordered by grasses shrubs and Chinese elms

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The bird was seen in the same tree and together with a Red-eyed Vireo and a Virginia's Warbler. It appeared larger than the Virginia's Warbler and more or less the same size as the Red-eyed Vireo. To me the bill size and shape was a key point in eliminating Red-eyed Vireo, this bird had no streaking on the flanks which a Northern Water Thrush has, the Worm-eating Warbler has a pale median crown stripe which this bird did not. The Ovenbird has an orange coloured crown bordered with a black stripe and

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?
Re: Vireos - both the Red-eyed and Warbling have nested in Fountain Creek Regional Park May/June/July 1992 and I am familiar with these 2 Vireo species. I saw a Northern Water Thrush here May 1992. I have seen an ovenbird at CS Wildlife Area (1980) also while I lived in Michigan. I have only seen a Palm Warbler a few times (2 in Colorado) but a quite familiar with Warblers in general.

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

a) at time of observation: NONE

b) after observation: National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds 2nd Edition
A Field Guide to the Birds Roger Tory Peterson (3rd Ed) Western
4th Ed Eastern and 1947 Edition

Audubon Society
Moulton's Guide to Birds

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation ☒ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: JULY 16, 1992 12:30 p.m.

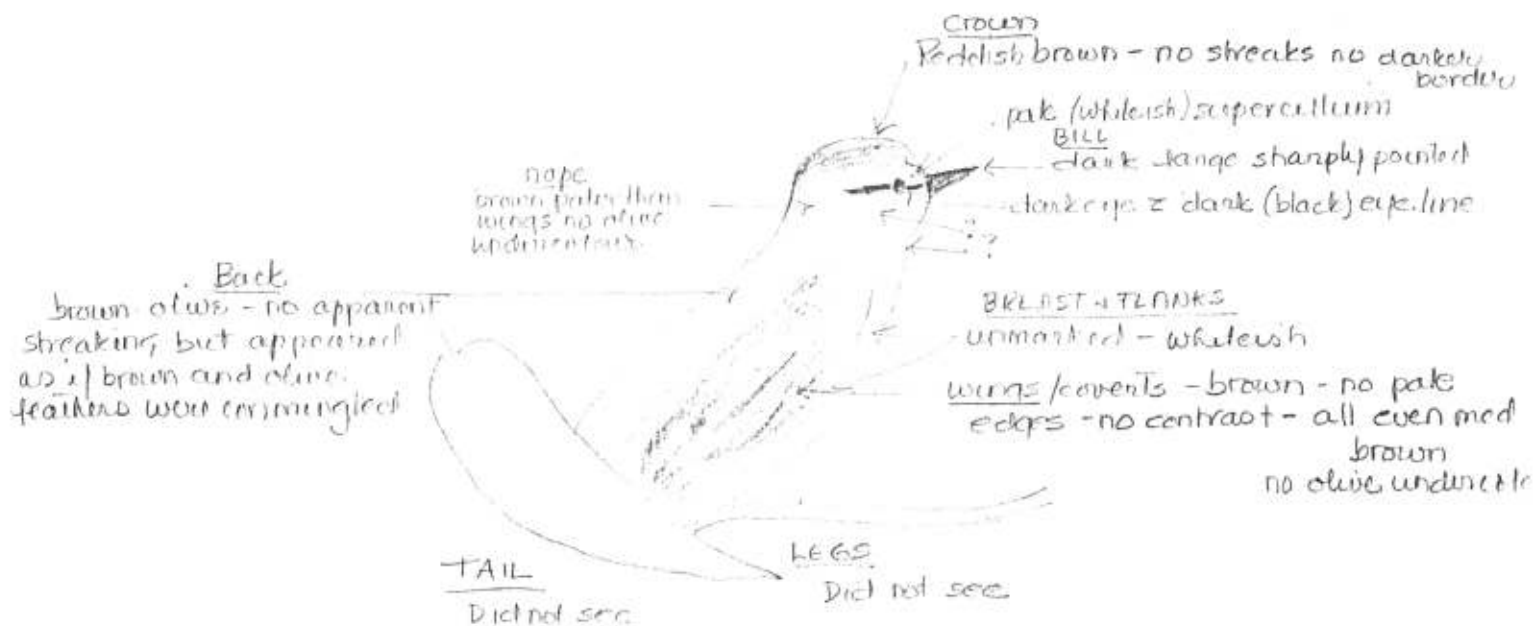
Reporting observer: Toni Breuvillier Signature: Toni Breuvillier

Address: 2616 Ashgrove St Colorado Springs CO 80906 1-719-540-5653

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CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205



white eye ring.

The Palm Warbler has a brownish crown with yellow supercillium (breeding) yellowish throat and streaking also darker ear coverts than this bird. The Red-eyed Vireo has a pale grey head, nape and back whereas this bird did not.

52-92-16

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COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

SWAINSON'S WARBLER

Limnothlypis swainsoniiLocation: Fountain Creek Regional Park; Fountain; El Paso County, ColoradoDate: July 17, 1992

This bird was discovered by Toni Brevillier and seen by several others.

Setting:

After being notified by Toni Brevillier, I made four attempts at finding this bird. I was successful only on the second and failed on the evening of July 16, and on the mornings of July 21 and July 25. On July 17 I saw the bird between Area 1 and Area 2. This is a gravel roadway that cuts over a small marshy, overgrown stream leading into a more open parklike area. I saw the bird for less than two minutes. I watched it with 10X42 binoculars at a distance of 50 - 100 feet. Although it was sunny, the bird kept in the shade or in dappled sunlight. I walked along the creek and scared the bird out from a low patch of cane near the ground. It flew across the road and worked its way through the shady foliage at the lower edges of the canopies of small deciduous trees. Although staying in the shade it was relatively easy to see. I got clear, open views. It perched horizontally on small twigs, taking a few steps before flying to its next perch. I lost it as it apparently landed around the back of a small tree. It just seemed to melt away as I never saw it leave.

Description:

This was a small, moderately active warbler. It walked along twigs quietly, then would flit lightly to the next perch. I saw the bird from the side and rear. It perched quite level and was silent during the entire observation. It was a slender, plain bird, about 5" long. The bill was long, rather stout for a warbler, but distinctly tapered and sharp at the tip. The legs, bill and eye were dark. The bird was plain dusky grey-brown above. It was lighter and pale greyer below, having notably lighter sides than the dark wings and tail. There were no wingbars. The back did not have an olive tinge but the grey-brown color of the back contrasted markedly with the rufous cap (crown). There was a narrow, arching whitish superciliary which was the most obvious fieldmark of this very plain bird. The cheek was darker grey than the side and a darker eyeline extended through the eye. The area behind the eye was darker than the lores.

Similar Species:

Sparrows can be ruled out by the slender shape and the long, slender, pointed bill. Vireos have heavy, slightly hooked bills. Warbling Vireo is chunkier, and lacks dark lores and reddish cap. Philadelphia Vireo has yellow tones totally lacking in this bird and lacks the reddish cap. Tennessee Warbler has grey, not reddish, crown, whiter underparts, and colder and greyer tones above. Orange-crowned Warbler is darker and yellower below, more olive above and lacks the reddish cap. Virginia's and Nashville warblers have a yellow breast, lack the pale superciliary, have eyerings and lack complete reddish caps. Female Black-throated Blue Warbler shows a whitish spot in the wing, has a narrower and sharper superciliary, and a darker face. Worm-eating Warbler has distinct black lines against a tan face and breast.

Experience with Species:

I have seen two Swainson's Warbler previously, once in 1974 in Florida, and once in coastal Texas in April 1984. I have more experience with the other species mentioned above.

This report is prepared from notes made during and after observation.



Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001

CFO Rare Bird Form

52-92-16

A

- New State Record ----------
- X - Rare bird in CO -----Swainson's Warbler
(Species)Limnothlypis swainsonii
(Scientific name)

Date(s):

July 23, 1992 8:15-8:17 AM 30 seconds of good looks. Bird
was in area for two minutes.

Locality:

Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso County, Colorado
Springs, Colorado.

1 Willow Springs	-----	1	-----
1 Road	- park	1 park	-
1	- lot	1 lot	-
1	-----	1	-----
1	many trees Warbler	1	
1	& bushes here	1	
1	-----	1	
1	1 park 1	1	
1	1 lot 1	1	
1	-----	1	
1		1	
-----		1	
park 1 park		1	
lot 1 lot		1	
-----		1	

Nearest town, county and state)

Optical equipment:

7x35 Bushnell Binoculars.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:
not photographed.

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: adult

Light Conditions:

Good, no sun, overcast, good viewing conditions.

Distance from bird and how measured:

10 feet, guessed. The bird was very close to Clif Smith and I in near by bushes.

82-92-16

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

The bird appeared when other birds were singing in the area. The bird moved in the lower branches of the small bushes. The bird moved slowly in the bushes. The bird was with the much smaller House Wren, a Yellow Warbler about the same size, a Blue Jay much bigger than the warbler and a few Warbling Vireos which were smaller than the Swainson's Warbler.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

The bird was seen by Clif and I in the area with heavy undergrowth. Small bushes and trees in area. Bird was seen in the bushes surrounded by undergrowth. A marsh was located about 30-40 yards away where the bird was observed. Also many cottonwood trees in the area. However the bird was never in them.

**Other observers who independently identified the bird
(Please list names and address):**

(Toni Brevillier): Colorado Springs 7/16/92 (original
(Susan Blackshaw): Colorado Springs 7/16/92 finders)
Mark Janos: Pueblo 7/17/92
Clif Smith: Pueblo 7/23/92

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. The field marks used to identify the bird. Include Size, overall shape, plumage, and color pattern; details on shape of bill, wings, and tail.:

The following is what Clif and I observed on the Swainson's Warbler. We observed the bird for 30 seconds of its 2 minute period in the bush because it was very difficult to see when it was just above the ground. We did get good looks at it for 20 seconds in the open. We identified the bird by the reddish brown cap, whitish eye line, black eye stripe through the eye and by the shape which was warbler like. The bird appeared a few inches larger than the near by House Wrens. The bird's shape was like typical warblers. The bird was in adult plumage most likely a male, because females should have a more browner cap not reddish brown like males should have, which was like this bird. Head reddish brown on cap and nape to the start of the back. Eye was dark. Bill color light. Lower mandible lighter than upper mandible on bill. Back color was a brownish olive color. Wings were brown, darker than back and a lighter brown than the head. Wing bars were very faint. Ear patch was brown colored. Undertail coverts light. Uppertail coverts same color as wings (brown). Under parts were all a buffy white (noted by Clif). Shape of bill was long for a warbler and pointed. The

wing shape was like most warblers, tail was much past the end of wings. The tail shape was also like most warblers, rectangle shape with round on end.

52-92-16

Describe the bird's calls or sounds if heard:
No sound heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:
House Wren: smaller, small wings, bill, tail ect.
All other warblers: None have olive brown back and brown wings like this warbler.

Prior experience with this and similar species:
This is my first Swainson's Warbler.
I've seen many House Wrens in Colorado.
I've seen many species of warblers in Colorado. None are even close to looking like this bird.

There's no doubt that it was a Swainson's Warbler, not because it was seen before I saw it by other people. If I saw the bird first I would have identified it as a Swainson's Warbler!

This report was written from notes made during____ after X
; from memory____.

Name: Brandon K. Percival
Mailing address: 835 Harmony Dr.
Pueblo West, Colorado
(719)-547-3722

Signature: Brandon K. Percival

Return form to: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator-Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
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