

Species: MOURNING WARBLER Y

Oporornis philadelphia

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 18, 1975

Time Bird Seen:

Early afternoon I believe?
15 to 20 minutes observed

Locality: United States Air Force Academy

Nearest Town: Colorado Springs

County: El Paso

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Dave Griffith

David Thomas (I believe) not sure

Optical Equipment: Binoculars 7X 30

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions:

Distance from bird (how measured):

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: M Plumage: breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: Timidly skulking in clumps of underbrush (especially 2 locations) it was not easily seen, especially as it moved almost constantly. I had four or five glimpses of it but one especially satisfactory view when other observers were on the other side of a clump of brush and the bird remained quiet for a moment on my side, apparently thinking itself hidden.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Medium-sized warbler, yellow belly, olive green back but I was struck by the fact that its breast and head looked very different from a MacGillivray's, generally a much darker almost black effect. There was black all around the eye, though the eye itself glinted. The gray hood darkened into a black rump on the breast, most remarkably blacker than on any MacGillivray I had ever seen. In retrospect I realize that the rump effect must have been slightly lighter than the because the tips of the feathers were slightly lighter than the main body of the feather but the general impression was of a very blackish breast, not just marked with black.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

I heard the song rather faintly, - a brief and I believe four-noted song but don't feel I made any independent judgment about the song. I felt it was what the others said it was.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: Clumpy brush and gullies of lower hill side. Broken dead branches tangled with spring growth of shrubs and weeds made dense concealment in small areas and the bird went from one to another.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

By the dark surrounding of the eye, really black area around the eye

And by the noticeably blacler breast

I felt it could not be a MacGillivray's which is the only other hooded warbler with which I am familiar. I haven't seen a Connecticut.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

No prior experience with Mourning warbler but am quite familiar with MacGillivray's. Certain springs we have had several at our place for a week or two. Have seen them in Oaxaca, Mexico, also but this last spring ('75) I saw one at a neighbor's on spring count 5/10/75 and one in Boulder 5/15/75, both instances just previous to seeing this Mourning w. on Air Force Academy grounds 5/18/75

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Only in so far as the song is concerned did I feel influenced by the other observers present. I don't recall this too clearly but noticed that the rather timid song seemed to conform with what David Thomas, or someone said it should be.

This report was written from notes made during after observation; from memory also

PRINT NAME: Camille Cummings SIGNATURE: Camille Cummings DATE: Sept. 17 1975
Street Address: P.O. Box 109 Town and State: Berthoud, Co. ZIP: 80513

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD NEW STATE RECORD ACCEPTED REJECTED

Species: MOURNING WARBLER

(Vernacular Name)

2 A *Oporornis philadelphia*

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 18, 1975 Time Bird Seen: 1150 to 1210

Locality: United States Air Force Academy

Nearest Town: Colorado Springs

County: El Paso

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Dave A. Griffiths	27 Amherst, Apt 8, Pueblo, CO 81005	561-2258

Carolyn Griffiths same as above

Allegra Collister, Micki Wallace, Camille Cummings, Elva Fox

Optical Equipment: Leitz binocular 8 X 40

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: open shade

Distance from bird (how measured): 10 ft to 25 ft (estimated)

Number of Birds Seen: one Sex: male Plumage: Breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Bird was fairly tame--searching among leaves and branches for insects. Search for food was carried out in rapid, systematic manner. The bird would move along a branch inspecting the leaves and stem and move one to another branch. It did not appear to be overly concerned with the presence of the people.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

The first reaction was that the bird was a MacGillivray's warbler, but it was soon observed that there was no hint of an eye ring. The bird had a dark grey head and neck which transitioned into a very dark, black or almost black, chest. The breast was quite yellow, especially at the juncture of the dark chest. There was no indication of any wing bars present.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: Cannot recall any.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Along creek bed of West Monument Creek. Bird was not along stream proper, but in small ravine which was once probably part of main stream bed. There is small amount of water in ravine with growth of willows and cat tails. Nearby trees include cotton woods and ponderosa pine.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

No sign of eye ring as with the MacGillvray's warbler. Bird seemingly much darker in lower chest area.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have seen MacGillvray's warblers in Colorado and Mourning warblers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds of North America (Robbins, Bruun, Zim, and Singer) and A Field Guide to the Western Birds (Peterson) consulted during and immediately after observation.

This report was written from notes made during after x observation; from memory x

PRINT NAME: David M. Thomas

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: 2 Nov 75

Street Address: Qtrs. 4513 B

Town and State: USAFA, CO

ZIP: 80840

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: MOURNING WARBLER

(Vernacular Name)

V
Oporornis philadelphia

A

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 18, 1975

Time Bird Seen: 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Locality: U.S. Air Force Academy

Nearest Town: Colorado Springs

County: El Paso

Other observers who independently identified this bird: plus others on diagram

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Gelena Collier 812 Park Lane c - Longmont, Colo 80501

David Thomas Quarters 4538 USAF Academy Colo 80330

Mickey Wallace 17 Cheyenne Mt Blvd Colorado Springs Colo 80901

Optical Equipment: 7x35 binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: good

Distance from bird (how measured): estimated - within 10 feet several times

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: adult breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: I had been talking to Mickey Wallace about MacGillivray's Warblers when we flushed this bird in low shrub growth along stream bed. It fed low in shrub growth and sneaked thru and ahead causing difficulty in observing until several of us surrounded it. Then it calmed down and I was able to observe it carefully.

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

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

At first we thought it was a MacGillivray's warbler. David Thomas first questioned its identity due to no apparent eye ring. I then very intently pursued it and kept giving other observers the location until we had it pretty well surrounded. It calmed down and continued feeding. I was able to sneak in on it for several close observations - sometimes 10 feet or less and concentrated on distinguishing field marks. There was absolutely no sign of an eye ring. In fact there was a black smudge almost like an eye line. I also noticed how much darker the bottom part of the hood was (OVER) near the breast - much darker than the many MacGillivray's warblers I have seen over a period of nine years.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

I don't recall a song or chip

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Foothills - a little mt. stream coming into a lake at the Air Force Academy. The bird was working in low shrubbery by the stream bed gooseberry, etc.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

I discussed the Mac Gillyvray's warbler at length with Allegra Collister because of her experience.

The three things I noticed which stood out to me (see diagram attached) were dark smudge almost like a eye line - no sign of any light or white at all. Darkness of lower area of hood on neck near breast and brighter yellow under parts than I ever recall seeing on Mac Gillyvrys.

Connecticut warbler has a complete eye ring and lighter gray hood. This bird appeared to me to be a full adult male Mourning Warbler in

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: breeding plumage

I have seen many Mac Gillyvrys warblers in all plumages, spring, summer and fall in 9 years. I have seen 2 other Mourning Warblers that I remember in Texas 1973

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Audubon Guides - All the Birds of Eastern and Central North America - Richard H. Pough

A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas - Roger Tory Peterson

Birds of North America - Bollenbress

This report was written from notes made during after observation; from memory

PRINT NAME: DAVE A GRIFFITHS SIGNATURE: David Griffiths DATE: Aug 25, 19
Street Address: 27 Conduit Apt 8 Town and State: Wueblo Colo ZIP: 81005

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

?5. I was much closer most of the time and kept the bird under longer observation than the other observers in the party because of my intense interest in it and I had some advantage in pursuing it also.

52-80-26

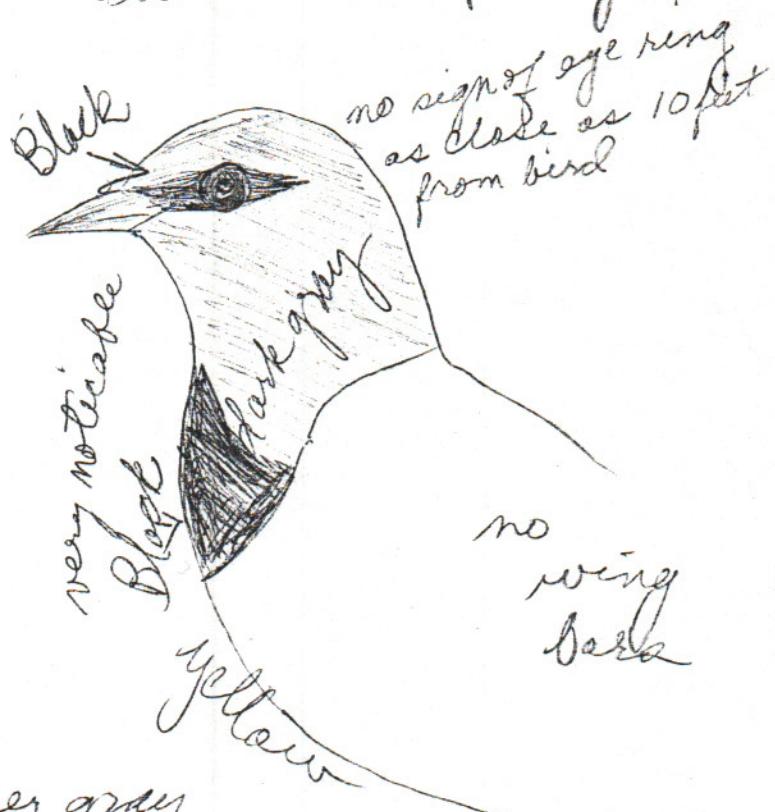
Dave A. Griffiths
President, Colorado Field Ornithologists
17 Solar Drive / Pueblo, Colorado 81005 / (303) 561-2974

Oporornis philadelphicus

Mourning Warbler May 18, 1975

11:45 to 12:00 noon - adult ♂ spring

M. S.
air force Academy
north of
Colo Springs
along stream bed on
west side



Head and neck - darker gray
than the MacGillivray's I have seen
no scaling noticeable on neck and chest
lower front
Black spot noticeable at end of Hood
yellow underneath brighter than MacGillivray's

observers - Allegro Collette, David Thomas, Mickey Wallace
Camille Cummings, Elva Fox, Dave & Carolyn Griffiths
Durango