

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

MOURNING WARBLER
Oporornis philadelphica

Red 1/20/00 wpe
ACCEPT 7-0

Location: Lake Henry grove; Crowley County; near Ordway, Colorado

Date: May 18, 1999

Setting:

I was birding alone when I found this bird. It was at the edge of the heavy tamarisk grove near the middle of the main grove on the northwest edge of Lake Henry. The bird was briefly in the open at the edge of the tamarisk and I got quite a good look from about 30 feet at about knee-level as it perched nervously on a dead twig. I only observed it for about 10 seconds total, so this was a disappointingly brief view. It was silent during the entire observation. It flew off into the interior of the heaviest tamarisk area and I never re-found the bird. I saw it at approximately 10:00 a.m. using my B&L Elite 10x40 binoculars. It was sunny.

Description:

The bird was a breeding-plumaged male. It was a typical Oporornis sp. warbler, large, totally plainly olive-green above and bright yellow below. The most obvious feature during my short observation was the complete blackish gray hood with no trace of white eye arcs nor white eyering. I observed no other features of this bird.

Similar Species:

The only other true ID contenders are MacGillivray's Warbler (smaller bib; dull to bright white eye crescents) and Connecticut Warbler (less extensive, lighter gray hood; complete white or buff eyering; gray, not black, lores).

Experience with Species:

I have seen all Oporornis sp. in Colorado and/or elsewhere in the U.S. I have seen 3 male Mourning Warblers in Colorado and three Mourning Warblers at Lake Henry.

This report is prepared from brief notes made during observation.

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