

4-1991

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UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Yellow-throated Warbler Scientific Name: *Dendroica dominica*

Date: 12/15/91 Time: 12:30 pm Length of time observed: 15-20 min total 12-15

also 12/16 and 12/17
Number: 1 Age: adult Sex: male
30 min - 12-16
45 min 12-17Location: just east of the north entrance to Liberty Park,
600 E 900 S Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, UT

Lat/long: Elevation: ~4300'

Distance to bird: 30 ft. Light conditions: full sun

Optical equipment: Bausch + Lomb Custom binoculars, 10x40

Weather: clear, some haze, temp ~40°F, no wind

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

size: about the same size as the Black-capped Chickadees with which it was foraging - much larger than nearby Ruby-crowned Kinglets and somewhat larger than Red-breasted Nuthatches in the same vicinity.

Shape: classic warbler shape, somewhat shorter tail; bill thin, longer than some warblers; posture mostly horizontal

Coloration + plumage pattern: general coloration was gray above, white below, yellow throat, and black mask.

specifically: head; crown gray (same color as back), very prominent white eyebrow stripe (white over entire length), black mask through eye to ear, which turns somewhat downward towards posterior, some white spots near eye, white completely surrounds the black mask except in the throat region, throat is bright yellow, yellow confined distinctly to throat

- underparts; breast and belly white (may be slightly grayish) color continues to under tail coverts, flanks streaked in black which continues down from corner of wing

- wings; grayish-~~black~~ blackish, two white wing bars, upper one broken

- back; clear, light gray, not as dark as wings or tail, no streaks or other color

- tail; dark gray, lighter underneath, no spots

Voice or call notes: none heard 12-15-91, on 12-16 and 12-17, frequent "chip" calls heard, richer and sweeter than Yellow-rumped Warbler chips nearby.

Behavior: 12-15-91: foraging in pines, near mid-level of trees ~50' tall, moved between inner branches to outer, most time on outer clumps of needles
12-16 and 17: similar behavior - higher in trees, near top, also foraged in some

Habitat: ~~open parkland~~ spruce and deciduous trees, as well as chimney, roof, gutters and windows of a house and greenhouse in the middle of the ^{park} with extensive stands of large conifers and deciduous trees in the middle of residential urban area.

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:

initial determination was based upon warbler shape, yellow throat, black mask surrounded with white, clear gray back, and white underparts with black streaks on flanks.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

No other warbler combines yellow throat, gray back and prominent eye brow stripe, except for Grace's Warbler. This species was eliminated by the presence of a clear black mask with white behind, completely white eyebrow, and clear gray ~~back~~ back.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have observed this species many times, including at least one dozen individuals this year, I have never seen Grace's Warbler

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

no field guides were consulted at time of determination, National Geographic + Peterson's Western Birds consulted after initial observation

Significance of record in this area or the state: to confirm separation from similar species.

1ST documented state record, may be 1ST winter record for region.

Additional material (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording in available):

more than 20 photographs taken, awaiting processing

Observer: MARK STACKHOUSE

Signature: 

Address: 1432 DOWNINGTON AVE, SLC, UT 84105

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

JEAN REAGAN, LAURA LOCKHART - 12-15-91
MANY OTHERS ON 12-16 and 12-17

Date prepared: 12-17-91

Return this form to: Utah Ornithological Society
C/O Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120