

1-1983

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

latilong _____ Record type _____ Serial No. _____
 habitat _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Olive Warbler
 Scientific Name Peucedramos taeniatus
 Obs. date May 15, 1983 Time(s) about 1000 AM
 Duration of obs. about 5-10 sec.
 Distance from bird about 40 feet
 Light conditions Fair, (sunny, but sun not at back)
 Optical equip. 9 power binocs
 Photo equip. _____

Weather at time of this observation.
Nice

Prior weather and number of days since change
Fair previous day

Locality
Beaver Dam Wash

Latilong block number 19

Notes made at time of sighting Date report prepared 11/3/84
 Notes made later from memory _____

Enter number of birds in each category.	GENDER(S)	AGES(S)	PLUMAGE(S)	PHOTO(S)
Total number observed. <u>1</u>	Males <u>1</u>	Adults <u>1</u>	Breeding <u>1</u>	Transition _____
	Females _____	Juv/Imms _____	Eclipse _____	Dark phase _____
	♀ or Imms _____	2/3 yr birds _____	Winter _____	Light ph. _____
	Unknowns _____	Unknowns _____	Other _____	Available _____
				Enclosed _____

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

Small grayish backed bird (size of yellow warbler), seen initially from the rear as it perched in small shrub, the bird was rather non-descript - basically grayish with light wingbars. Then it turned sideways and turned its head toward me. Its head was orange-brown with a black mask - cheek patch. I did not get much of a look at the breast or belly but the neck - throat, crown and nape was striking orange-brown, the black "mask" was conspicuous. I saw no streaking or spotting anywhere on the bird. The bill was thin and warbler-like. I only had about a 2 second view of the head of the bird, but it was unforgettable and I believe unmistakable. After the brief look, the bird flew off and I was unable to locate it again.

Note: I saw this bird on the 1983 U.F.O. Beaver Dam Wash trip while returning to the spot (in order to photograph) where S. Hedger found a perched Flammulated Owl. I did not report the sighting to anyone on the trip because a) it was my first U.F.O. trip and I didn't know well anyone in the group, b) I wasn't sure I'd be believed, c) I doubted the bird could be relocated since it flew off to the south to a dense stand of cottonwoods containing dozens of yellow warblers (I couldn't spot it again), and d) it was nearly time to leave and head home. I did not write up a report sooner because I thought this would be a first state record, and frankly didn't know if my sighting would be worthy of adding a new species to the state list. I now know another Olive Warbler sighting has been claimed. Many doubt its authenticity. I offer this sighting as more evidence the species has occurred in Utah.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL NOTES, LISTS OF REFERENCES, SKETCHES FROM LIFE, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

None that I know of.

Variations from expected field marks.

none

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Blackburnian Warbler - has much brighter color of orange - very different facial pattern - I've seen hundreds of these before.

I can't really think of anything else very similar.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

Seen perched ~ 5' off ground in shrub - then flew toward G Housewoods.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Warm Desert Riparian - migration corridor of some note.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

None heard

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

DAVID L. FISCHER
177 STARCREST DR.
OREM, UT 84058

Signature

David L. Fischer

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

No previous experience with this species. I feel competent with sight/sound of most North American warblers - even in fall/immature plumages.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

1-1983

11 December 1984

Dear Ella,

Enjoyed talking to you today and please don't hesitate to call or correspond whenever the thought strikes you. Both Paul and myself (as does Guy and many others) have a great deal of respect for you in trying to clean up Utah's records.

My comments on this Olive Warbler could be limited to the fact that any bird that was seen incompletely and especially for two seconds and was a first state record should immediately be tossed out. First impressions can so often be dead wrong and what looked like a character turns out to be tricky light, a shadow, oil or any number of other things including just a faulty mind. Rarity records should be backed up by prolonged study with hopefully field notes taken in the field or shortly after returning home, especially true when dealing with a 1st state record of a fairly sedentary species (as Olive Warbler is).

In reviewing this description, the fact that the bird had an orange-brown head (indicative of an adult male, at least two years of age) with a black mask is encouraging, but there is no mention of the shape of the mask. On Olive Warbler it broadens as one goes to the posterior portion of the auriculars. Pale wingbars are mentioned, but then many warblers have whitish wingbars. One of the keys of Olive Warbler is that the base of the primaries are also pale and this creates a 2nd or rather third pale area on the wing. This character was noted. Finally the shape of the bill (very long and slightly decurved in Olive Warbler) is not noted. Along with the fact that most of the bird wasn't seen (apart from the head) the record falls far short of being acceptable.

One other thing to keep in mind, which isn't relevant on this bird, is the totally un-warbler like call that Olive gives (a whistled "kew" note).

Please don't hesitate to send any other records that you would like reviewed. I hope you have a very pleasant Holiday season and that you find lots of good gulls!

All the best,

Jon

Jon L. Dunn, 4710 Dexter Dr., #7, Santa Barbara, CA 93110