

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Hooded Warbler

Scientific Name: Wilsonia citrina

Date: May 18, 1988

Time: ~10:00 am

Length of time observed: Total time about 1 minute

Number: 1

Age: Adult

Sex: Female

Location: 'Canal Trail' above Canyon Road, Logan, UT

Lat/long: 3

Elevation (if known): 9700'

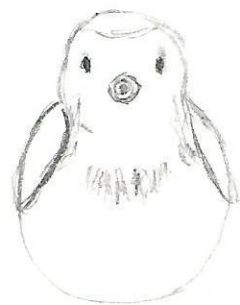
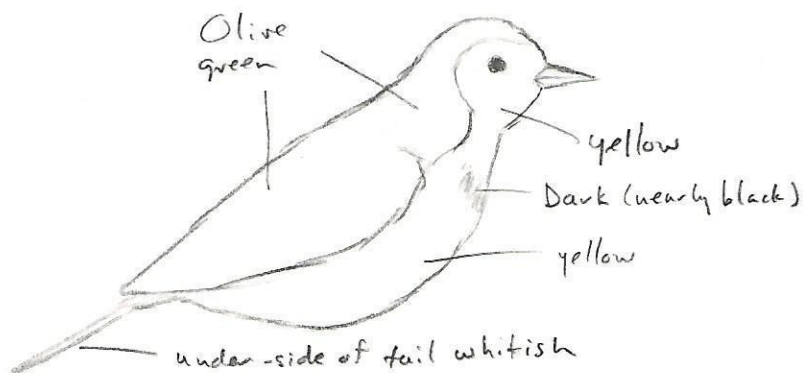
Distance to bird: 30 feet

Light conditions: Bright Overcast

Optical equipment: 9X36 Bushnell Binoculars

Weather: Cool, post-storm clearing, overcast to partly cloudy

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



This wood warbler was uniformly olive green above and medium yellow below. The green area on the head contrasted sharply with the yellow along the entire length of the bird as shown in the illustration. The contrast between the green on the head and the yellow of the face was striking, forming a 'hooded' appearance. Even more striking was the dark (almost black) 'bib' on the chest. The bib was 'rough' in outline, not patterned as in a Canada or Magnolia, and a bit blotchy (not completely solid). The eyes and bill were black while the legs were lightish. The upper side of the tail (closed) was green like the back while the underside was much lighter, whitish in appearance. The tail was not seen fanned to check for the white spots as typical in hooded. The bird was observed both from side and 'end-on' views as illustrated.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: None

Behavior: The bird was moving about in a box elder tree about 15 feet above the ground. In typical warbler fashion, it would sit for several seconds, then flit to another branch. It finally disappeared into the back of the tree.

Habitat: Wooded hillside above irrigation canal. The hillside is densely covered with large box elder trees with dense underbrush, not unlike second growth eastern deciduous forests along a river.

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

Wilson's Warbler - The dark bib on the chest is not found on Wilson's Warblers. The light underside of the tail is not typical of Wilson's Warblers.

Yellow Warbler - The dark bib on the chest is not found on this species.

The olive color of the back was too dark and the yellow on the breast too bright for a female of this species. Also, the sharp contrast between the green top of the head and yellow face are not typical of yellow warblers.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have seen them in southern Michigan (numerous times) and in Great Smoky Mountains Nat. Park (once).

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

The bird was tentatively identified as a flooded Warbler, prior to consulting field guides. After seeing the illustration on page 373 of Nat. Geographic Field Guide to Birds of N.A., I felt certain this bird was a female flooded Warbler. The field guide was not used in writing this description, however.

Significance of record in this area or the state: Rare Migrant; Not recorded in lat. long 3 previously.

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

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ___ notes made later ___ from memory X

Observer: Ron Ryel

Signature: Ronald J. Ryel

Address: 825 N. 600 E.
Logan, UT 84321

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Keith Archibald and Larry Ryel also saw the bird.

Date prepared: May 19, 1988

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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