

2005-28(R95)
19 Sep 1995
Canada Warbler
Fish Springs NWR

Alan S. Condie, MD
1375 Kristie Lane
Salt Lake City, Utah
84108

Sept. 20, 1995

Terry Sadler
887 Germania Avenue
Murray, Utah, 84123

Dear Terry,

I thought that I would drop you a written note to let you know of the sighting I had of a Canada Warbler on September 19, 1995 at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge.

First of all, let me give you some personal background to let you know who I am. I completed a four year residency in emergency medicine in Detroit and have been in emergency medicine practise for the past thirteen years and am at the University Hospital in Salt Lake City. I am also an artist having sold approximately thirty oil paintings during my high school and college years (I have only had time to do wedding presents for relatives since). I started doing bird watching about three years ago when I set up a medical clinic in Wendover, Nevada.... looking for raptors on telephone poles helped me get across the western desert on I-80 the last sixty miles through the salt marsh.

Yesterday Jay Banta allowed me the opportunity to bird watch in some of the typically closed areas of Fish Springs. At 10:30am I sighted a Canada Warbler at the bridge connecting the Harrison and Gadwall Pools (which were dry). This was a five inch warbler with a solid olive-gray head-back-wings; the wings had no wing bars; pale yellow eye spectacles; the neck and body were yellow; and this bird had four dark streaks down the upper breast. The breast streaks were not as melanistic as shown for the male Canada Warbler and did not have the bluish-gray head and back as described for the male in reference books. The bird appeared to be identical to the one listed as the female in the Peterson Field Guides "Western Birds". As an artist I would describe the "necklace" streaks as a "muddy forest green" color (to mix this color on the palate I would have used ten parts viridian green to three parts burnt umber). I noticed in the reference book: "Field Guide to the Birds of North America" by the National Geographic Society that the female Canada Warbler is shown with an indistinct "necklace". This individual bird was profoundly tame and I was able to view the field marks { or absence of some field markings) for twenty minutes while it fed on insects from bushes only twenty to thirty feet from my vehicle.

I will send a note to Jay Banta today to see if he or Eric will be able to sight the bird alsoperhaps at the same location. Thank you for the "Rare Bird Alert" service which helps to maintain an interest in birding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected loops and strokes, positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".