

RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION

Records of Vermont Birds

The following form has been prepared to encourage full documentation, when requested, of rare or unseasonal birds in the state of Vermont. These reports are put into a permanent file and should be as detailed as possible. New reports are reviewed annually by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which evaluates records for their acceptability to future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list.

Please print or type

SPECIES: Common Yellowthroat

NUMBER OBSERVED:1

OBSERVER MAKING REPORT: OTHER OBSERVERS (and addresses if available)

Paul Wiczorek

LOCATION: (place, township, county)

Aprox. 1/4 mile upsteam on Laplatt River from Leavensworth Rd. bridge , Hinesburg, Chittenden Co.

DATE: 1/24/2016

TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION:

4pm 4- 5 min.

DISTANCES FROM BIRD: Maximum_50ft____ Minimum__15ft____

WEATHER:

wind direction _____ wind speed 0

sky cover pt cloudy + light in relation to observer's position excellent light , late afternoon sun low to my right and behind me

temperature 18 - 22F _____

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: (make, power, etc.)

Swarovski 8x 30

OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:

very familiar with this sp.

OTHER DOCUMENTATION: Photo _____ Tape Recording _____ Specimen _____

If yes to the above, where is this information deposited? _____

HABITAT: (be as detailed as possible, include associated bird species)

Habitat was a riparian shrub community dominated by *Cornus sericea* with *C. racemosa*, *Lonicera tartarica*, *Rhamnus cathartica*; open canopy of scattered *Tillia americana*, *Acer rubrum* , *Quercus bicolor*, *Q. macrocarpa*; river forms boundary separating this community from open wetland dominated by grasses, *Thypa* and some shrubs. Bird first seen hopping around on base of large maple 15'ft from river and then moved closer to me into dense colony of *C. sericea*, still within 50ft of river. Several BCCH and NOCA were nearby and also were responding to Pishing and EASO imitation.

BIRD'S BEHAVIOR: (feeding actions, manner of flight, displays or interactions, reaction to observer)

At one point was picking something tiny off of snow on the ground , also gleaning on bark at base of large Maple, typical COYE skulking habit within dense shrubs, responded to pishing more than the owl call (which has often been my experience in the past)

VOCALIZATION: (song or calls)

several emphatic jerrrk calls first alerted me , bird continued calling as it moved closer and confirmed it was in fact making the sound. Sounded like typical COYE.

DESCRIPTION: (Describe what you actually saw during the observation. We hope that observers will take field notes during the observation and before consulting field guides, etc. Additional pages with sketches and copies of field notes are encouraged.)

Relative size and shape: Small , warbler size and showing typical propped tail posture; skulking habit low in vegetation

Head (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape):

other than yellow throat which was brighter than rest of head, didn't have enough time or proper perspective to notice any hint of a face mask, first and lasting impression was a female

Feet and Bill (shape, color, length):

not noted

Upper back:

dull yellow/ olive

Lower back and rump:

uniform dull yellow / olive

Wings (shape, length, markings):

no wing bars

Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts:

noticeably brighter yellow throat and breast

Tail (shape, length, markings):

no markings on tail , held slightly upright ,more so when calling and agitated

IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?

Ist winter mourning warbler - vocalization different , I had very little doubt I was hearing COYE chip notes , I think of MOWA as being a bit more snappy - maybe more metallic sounding

COMMENTS: (was age or sex determined?, etc.)

see above

This report was written from notes taken during _____ immediately after ____ + ____ the observation, or written from memory _____ (please attach copies of notes if available)

Vtbird list serve post from that day:

This afternoon I decided to take advantage of the recent bout of "real winter" and take a stroll on a section of the now frozen LaPlatt river here in Hinesburg. Lots of Coyote tracks to ponder but It was mostly quiet bird wise until I came across a low lying shrubby area along a bend in the river. Within 5 minutes I was able to count 52 American Tree Sparrows which was more than twice the number we had counted for the entire Hinesburg CBC three weeks earlier . Encouraged by my good fortune, I continued another half mile or so up stream where I reached another section with similar habitat. Stopping to ponder the wisdom of crossing a sketchy section of river ice, I heard a familiar series of chip notes - but ones I hadn't heard for many months. If it had been July I would not have doubted what first came to mind - Common Yellow Throat! Sure enough, with a little pishing, there it was .Wow , that will brighten your day! Although no perfect looks, i didn't get a hint of a mask so I'm guessing a female. Would love to figure out what this bird is eating to survive our now snow covered, frozen landscape.

Paul Wieczorek

Hinesburg

NAME (print)___Paul Wieczorek_____SIGNATURE (not
req'd)_____

MAILING ADDRESS _2800 Lincoln hill rd. Hinesburg vt.
05461_____

DATE ___2/2/2016_____

Return electronically (preferred) to: vbrc@vtecostudies.org or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee,
Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055