

Rare Bird Report

725-01-1991

Species: **Nashville Warbler**

Reporter: Steve Santner
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Date: Feb 17, 1991. This report was written
Apr 2, 1991 from notes made at the
scene.

Location: Chet and Thelma Kaufman's backyard at
the junction of Church and Bowman Rds,
Landisville, Lancaster Co, Pa.

Habitat: Wooded backyard surrounded by fields and
one other wooded backyard. Some wood-
lots nearby. The two backyards contain
feeders, particularly a suet feeder in
the Kaufman's yard, which appeared to be
the attraction for the bird.

Sighting conditions: Seen as close as 15 feet through a
window. Several short (5-10 sec) looks.
Total viewing time about 15-30 sec with
naked eye and 9 X 25 binoculars. The
weather and sighting conditions were
good to excellent.

Other observers: Chet and Thelma Kaufman at the time I
saw it. Many others before and since.

At about noon on Feb 17, I stopped in at the Kaufman's, having heard of this bird from Bob Schutsky. At that time, no positive ID had been made although Thelma had tentatively identified it as a Nashville Warbler. Shortly after arrival (12:30 or so) the bird appeared on the suet feeder in the corner of the yard. It stayed there momentarily, allowing a good look at the gray head with a very narrow eye ring and generally yellow underneath. It then moved, without obtaining any food, chased by another bird. It landed in a nearby bush, and sat for a few seconds during which time it was seen to have pinkish legs and a small light spot in an otherwise all dark bill (the exact location of the spot was not observed). Again the gray head and yellow underparts (less bright than in a breeding plumaged bird but with no hint of green tint) were seen, the gray being seen to be distinctly separated from the green (no transition of gray to green). The green upperparts and tail (with no trace of wingbars) were also seen. The bird then hopped and flitted along the ground toward the house, stopping for about five seconds on the ground approximately

15 feet away. No new field marks were observed during this period. The bird then jumped behind the car parked in the driveway and was not seen again that day. The undertail coverts and underside of the tail were never seen.

Elimination of similar species: The eyering, gray head, green back and tail and yellow underparts all suggest winter plumaged Nashville Warbler. Connecticut Warbler is easily eliminated; this bird was almost hyperactive, unlike the relatively slow movements of Connecticut. Also, any Connecticut as bright yellow underneath as this bird (no green tint) would have had some markings on the throat which this bird did not have. Mourning and MacGillivray's Warblers both should also have markings on the throat and broken, or no apparent eyering. Common Yellowthroat sometimes appears to have a very thin eyering but it is browner and not as cleanly yellow underneath. Finally, perhaps the most likely contender is Orange-crowned Warbler. Some are very yellow underneath, but all I have seen have some green tint to the underparts. Also, Orange-crowns would have a broken eyering, if any, and probably a black line through the eye. They would not be clear yellow underneath all the way to the base of the bill. The only counterindication in this bird is the pinkish legs. However, I recall a photo of a bird which appeared on one of the Chicago CBCs a few years back and was identified as a Connecticut Warbler on the basis of bright pink legs. Otherwise, the photo appeared to be a Nashville Warbler in all other regards, and was ultimately judged by the Illinois state bird committee to be a Nashville. Unfortunately, I was unable to relocate this photo.

Experience with this and similar species: Nashville Warbler and Common Yellowthroat - 20+ years. Mourning Warbler - 10 years, Connecticut Warbler - I've seen only 2, both in the fall of 1989, MacGillivray's Warbler - I've seen a few, back in the spring of 1978, Orange-crowned Warbler - I've seen a few, some in the East and some in California.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Nashville Warbler**

Date of Sighting: **February 17, 1991**

Observer(s): **Steve Santner**

Date of Submission: **1991 Lancaster**

Submitted by: **Steve Santner**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Leberman			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

11-6-91