

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTATION FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

Submitted to Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC)

**IORC RECORD
NUMBER:**

This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):

2019-045

Unusual species; Unusual date; Unusual number;
 Unusual plumage; Unusual breeding record; Christmas Count record; Spring Count record;
 Breeding Census record; Other: _____

1. **SPECIES:** Townsend's Warbler
2. **Number of birds:** 1 **Age/sex/plumage:** immature
3. **Date(s):** 15 September 2019
4. **Location (include county):** Montrose Point, Lincoln Park, Chicago, Cook County
5. **Observers:** Geoffrey A. Williamson, Fran Morel, Amanda Tichacek, several others

Documenter: Your name: Geoffrey A. Williamson

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Others agreeing with identification: all those listed above

Observers NOT agreeing with identification: _____

6. **Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and patterns on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, undertail, wings, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, eye, legs and feet); include only details actually seen in the field:**

Warbler in the *virens* complex showing green-yellow face surrounding black check patch, yellow crescent below eye in the black cheek patch. Upper parts: crown olive green with black mixed in on sides of crown, back unmarked olive green (later inspection of photos by others shows some black markings on back), rump olive green with black spotting from some dark feather centers; (folded) wings black with two bold white wingbars, tertials edged with white. Brown primary coverts contrasting with black secondary coverts indicate this is a hatch year bird. Underparts: yellow chin, black throat with some yellow in it, yellow upper breast below the black throat, white underparts from the yellow of the breast through to the undertail coverts, heavy black streaking starting on the sides of the breast and belly starting in the yellow of the breast, a few black streaks in the otherwise white undertail coverts, white spots on underside of (folded) tail, (folded) tail with dark edges. Legs dark with some paleness, feet pale.

(over)

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Species: Townsend's Warbler **Date seen:** 15 September 2019 **Documenter:** Geoffrey A. Williamson

7. Description of behavior:

Foraging with mixed warbler flock in trees between 10 and 25 feet off ground.

8. Description of vocalizations:

None heard.

9. Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):

Well vegetated city park at edge of Lake Michigan..

10. Viewing conditions:

Optical equipment used for observation (type, power): Zeiss Victory T* FL LT 7x42 binoculars

Distance/ how measured? 15 to 30 feet, estimate **Time(s) of observation:** 3:15 PM

Total time of observation: 15 minutes

Weather (including regional or national weather patterns if relevant)/ sky conditions/ relative position of the sun : Partly cloudy skies, viewed the bird looking into the sun as well as with the sun behind.

11. Previous experience with this species and similar species:

I have a lot of experience with Black-throated Green Warbler, some experience with Townsend's Warbler and Hermit Warbler, very little with Golden-cheeked Warbler. No personal experience with hybrids among these.

12. Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids (use additional paper, if necessary):

The pattern of the face (black cheek), the yellow on the breast below the black throat, and the black streaking on the undertail coverts are distinctive to Townsend's warbler within the *virens* complex. Some photographs of the bird seemed to show yellow across the vent area, and the back appeared initially to me to be entirely unstreaked. These features made me consider hybrid Townsend's x Black-throated Green, but I think the yellow vent was from light reflected off foliage, as other photographs seem to show uniform white in this area, and other photographs showed the back streaking. Therefore, I don't believe that further consideration of hybrid origin of this bird is warranted.

13. Where photos obtained? Yes **If so, by whom?** Myself **Attached?** Yes

14. Books & illustrations consulted, and advice received. How did these influence this description?

15. How long after the observation were field notes recorded? Three hours (written onto this form)

16. How long after observation was this form completed? Three hours

17. Additional remarks:

Signed: Geoffrey A. Williamson

Date: 15 September 2019

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Photo #1, by Geoffrey A. Williamson, 15 September 2019

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Photo #2, by Geoffrey A. Williamson, 15 September 2019

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Photo #3, by Geoffrey A. Williamson, 15 September 2019

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Photo #4, by Geoffrey A. Williamson, 15 September 2019

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Photo #5, by Geoffrey A. Williamson, 15 September 2019

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Photo #6, by Geoffrey A. Williamson, 15 September 2019

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Photo #7, by Geoffrey A. Williamson, 15 September 2019

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Photo #8, by Geoffrey A. Williamson, 15 September 2019