

First record of Hooded Warbler for Colusa County, California

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As part of an ongoing study, the Point Reyes Bird Observatory worked from summer 1997 to the present with the Bureau of Reclamation to assess the health of landbird populations at East Park Reservoir (EPR) and environs, Colusa County, California. This monitoring project involved the use of a standardized mist-netting protocol to capture, band, measure, and release landbirds using the riparian habitat at EPR. Willows (*Salix* spp.) and blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) dominated the vegetation around our mist-nets. The surrounding landscape consisted of blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) woodlands, human habitation, the reservoir, and wetlands.

At 0620 on 8 July 1999 field biologist Libor Michalak captured, banded, and photographed a Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) at the confluence of Little Stony Creek and EPR (Figure 1). The bird was given U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band number 2190-56204. This warbler appeared to be a second calendar year female based on molt limits (condition of the primary coverts were narrow, brown and contrasted with greater coverts; P. Pyle pers. comm.) as well as plumage pattern (Pyle 1997). The plumage of female Hooded Warblers can be quite variable, especially in regards to extent of black on the head (Evans Ogden and Stutchbury 1994). In general, second calendar year females average less black than older females (Stutchbury and Howlett 1995).

Subcutaneous fat was not observed and the bird was not molting. All flight feathers showed extensive wear. Linear measurements were: wing chord, 62 mm; tail length, 54 mm; bill depth at tip of nares, 6.2 mm; culmen, 7.42 mm; exposed culmen, 10.44 mm; tarsus, 19.1mm. The bird weighed 10.0 g.

The Hooded Warbler breeds in eastern North America mostly south of the Great Lakes and winters in the lowlands of eastern Mexico south to Nicaragua (Dunn and Garrett 1997). It is a regular vagrant in California with approximately 80 birds reported in 1992 alone (McCaskie 1992, Yee et al. 1992). Most California records are of spring and summer birds (primarily May and June) from coastal southern California. Fall birds are first seen in August and have been observed as late as December (Roberson 1980). There have been only two previous records for Hooded Warbler documented in the Central Valley; an individual at Reichmuth Park, Sacramento County, on 5 September 1992 (Manolis 1994) and a singing male at Caswell State Park, San Joaquin County, on 18 June 1997 (D. Yee pers. comm.).

While this bird was encountered only on the day of its capture, the lateness of the date suggests that this individual might have been over-summering in



Figure 1. Second-year female Hooded Warbler captured at East Park Reservoir, Colusa County, California, 8 July 1999. 1A (*top*): note white in outer three pairs of rectrices; 1B (*bottom*): note large, conspicuous dark eye and hint of hood pattern.

Photos by Libor Michalak

the area around EPR. Vagrants of this species often summer in southwestern North America, and a successful breeding event was documented in southern California in 1992 (Evans Ogden and Stutchbury 1994). However, no territorial behavior was observed prior to or after capture.

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