

MacGillivray's Warbler
16 May 1966
Sioux City, Woodbury Co., IA
William Youngworth
Youngworth 1966

Record Number: 81-EB
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Youngworth, W. 1966. MacGillivray's Warbler at Sioux City. IBL 36:54-55.

See also correspondence under 95-25.

VOTE (1981): 3-III, 1-III?, 2-IV, 1-?

III, key mark seen, competent observer.

III?, See appended comment: Birds 1 & 3 were from SW Iowa, which is suggestive, but in view of recent conclusion that no plumage characteristics are 100% reliable in separating aberrant Mourning warblers from MacGillivray's (Hall, Bird-Banding 50:101-107, 1979) and the scarcity of the details in the sight records, I would recommend against the conclusion that the MacGillivray's occurs in Iowa. It is incomprehensible that 2 birds of this type could be banded and neither photographed nor measured! Bird #2 is clearly the best record; the statement that the breast was 'dappled with black' especially suggests *O. tolnei*. Mayr and Short (1970) consider these two forms conspecific.

?, May date - single observer, 1-2 min of observation, veteran observer. Description of classic spring male.

possibly IV, 'Two white spots above and below the eyes', may indicate more accurately MacGillivray's, rather than a broken eye ring. There appears to be a critical difference in the amount of white.

RE-VOTE (by mail 1995): 5 A-D, 2 NA

A-D, Description minimal but I am inclined to accept since location is so plausible. It appears from Nebraska records that some MacGillivrays do migrate along the Niabrara River before turning north/south.

NA, Probably correct but sketchy details. Although Mr. Youngworth was a credible observer, I also have a few concerns that the identification seemed to be somewhat predicated on banding records for which we have no details.

NA, Probably correct. I wish he had described the lores. If so, this would be as good as 95-25.

A-D, Details given are right for this species. Only thing that does not quite fit is the bird was seen to be "walking on the rocks of a garden flower bed". HGS Guide says "MacGillivray's Warbler hop; Connecticut walk". Does this mean something on this record?

A-D, Assuming that the "white spots" could be considered small crescents ("white spots" gives me more comfort than "broken eye-ring"), this report is acceptable as MacGillivray's, even though dark lores are not noted (see Robbins and Easterla 1992). Recent years have shown that this species occurs with some regularity in eastern South Dakota and Nebraska.

REVOTE (by mail; also at meeting of 22 Oct 1995): 3 A-D, 4 NA

NA, I am reversing my original vote which was based (as other AD's appear to be) on the "likelihood" of the bird showing up at that location at that time rather than description which was less than adequate to distinguish it from Mourning Warbler.

NA, Lore description and color not included. Evidently the white spots and the dark black crepe are not diagnostic.

NA, Change from previous vote -- black lores not noted -- perhaps sight records should note this -- otherwise my previous vote based on the only mark seen -- partial eye crescents, described as "spots." Upon reflection, description not adequate, although this bird also is a rather aberrant Mourning Warbler if not a MacGillivray's.

MacGillivray's Warbler

Youngworth, W. 1966. MacGillivray's Warbler at Sioux City. IBL 36:54-55.

MacGillivray's Warbler at Sioux City—Two white spots above and below the eyes gave me my clue to the small warbler walking on the rocks of a garden flower bed. The gray of the head and breast with the latter dappled with very black crape markings could only be one bird, the MacGillivray's Warbler. The time was early in the morning on May 16, 1966. This shy little bird gave me only a minute or two of its time and was gone. I quickly refilled the bird baths with fresh water and retired indoors, but the little warbler never returned.

While the MacGillivray's Warbler is a regular summer resident of extreme western South Dakota it has been reported in the eastern part of South Dakota only in recent years. These records have been obtained only by the dedicated and expert work of some of our birdbanders. Namely, the late Mrs. C. E. Peterson, of Madison, Minnesota; Lowry Elliott of Bird Haven, Milbank, South Dakota; and J. S. Findley of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Mrs. Peterson reported banding a MacGillivray's Warbler in the spring of 1956. Madison, Minnesota, is just ten miles inside the Minnesota border with South Dakota.

During the 1959 spring banding season both Mr. Elliott and Mr. Findley reported banding a single MacGillivray's Warbler from Milbank and Sioux Falls respectively. On May 26-27, 1962, Mrs. Nelda Holden of Brookings, South Dakota, attended the Spring Meeting of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union at Pierre, South Dakota, and was fortunate in netting and banding one MacGillivray's Warbler, all of which shows that this interesting western warbler does come eastwardly to Iowa and Minnesota in migration. WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH, 3119 E. 2nd St., Sioux City.