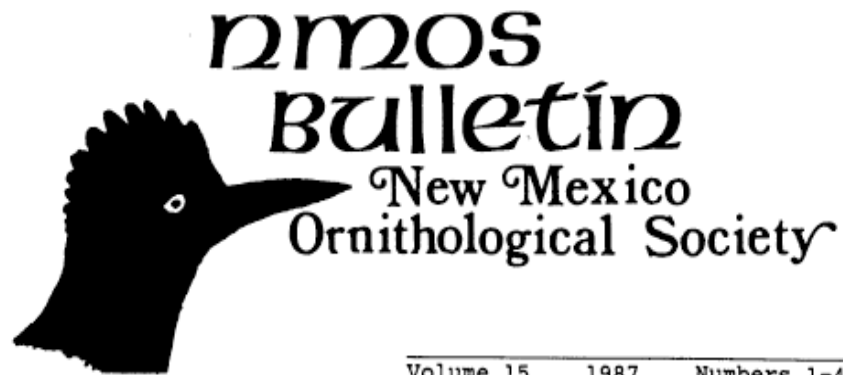


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## FIRST CANADA WARBLER IN MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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On 13 October 1985, banders of Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc., netted a Canada Warbler (Wilsonia canadensis) at the Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico. This represents the fourth record for this species in New Mexico and the first in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. The Rio Grande Nature Center banding location, formerly known as Candelaria Farms, has been described previously (Hundertmark 1981, 1982). The bird was captured in a 60-foot net set in a narrow strip of dense deciduous woodland with a Rio Grande cottonwood (Populus wislizenii) overstory and Russian olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia) understory.

The Canada Warbler that we netted (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Band No. 1720-85913) was uniform gray or blue-gray on most of the dorsal parts and mainly bright yellow beneath. The crissum was white, and the upper breast was marked by a "necklace" of gray streaks. The forehead was greenish, somewhat tinged with yellow. The bird had a yellow "spectacle" around each eye and extending forward to the bill. The portion of the spectacle around each eye was yellower above than below, with a white segment posterior to the eye. The bill was relatively short and wide for a warbler, most closely resembling that of a Wilson's Warbler (Wilsonia pusilla). Rictal bristles were present at the base of the bill. The bird escaped before the extent of skull ossification could be determined. The plumage most closely fit Dwight's (1900) description of the adult female winter plumage. However, Wood (1969) allocates all Canada Warblers with a greenish forehead to the age-and-sex-unknown category during the fall season. Color photographs were taken and have been deposited in the archives of the New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS-1985-32A and 32B).

Although the Canada Warbler breeds primarily in northeastern North America, the range extends west to northern and central Alberta (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). Migration is primarily east of the Rockies with vagrants recorded in California (very rare), Nevada, Colorado, and Arizona. There are three previous records for the species in New Mexico, all of which were in the spring in the east. The first was a specimen collected at Boone's Draw, Roosevelt Co., 24 May 1975 (Hubbard 1975). The second was an individual reported at Roswell, Chaves Co., in May 1976 (Hubbard 1978). The third was a male at Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Co., on 25 April 1979 (Hubbard and West 1979). The record reported here is thus the first fall migration record for the species in the state, as well as the first for the Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico. Although Canada Warblers tend to be early migrants, generally leaving breeding areas in August or September (Harrison 1984), our record is within the extreme dates of migration (Bent 1953).

I am indebted to John P. Hubbard for reviewing this note, and to the volunteers of Rio Grande Bird Research who make our project possible with their donations of time, equipment, and financial support. Special thanks go to Carol Davis and Bruce Ostyn who recovered the Canada Warbler from the net.

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