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## Sight Records for Connecticut Warbler (*Oporonis agilis*) and Yellow-throated Viero (*Viero flavifrons*) in Puerto Rico

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late 19th century, was discovered in the Charleston Museum by Henry Stevenson (*in litt.*). That specimen was recently acquired by the Florida Museum of Natural History (UF no. 21063).

Copies of Fig. 1 and several other colors slides of the Zenaida Dove on North Key Largo, all taken by George F. Wagner, have been deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History. We especially thank Joseph Ondrejko, Oscar Owre, William Robertson, Henry Stevenson, Vivian Thue, George Wagner, Tom Webber, and William Zeigler for their help with various aspects of this project.

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#### Sight Records for Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) and Yellow-throated Viero (*Viero flavifrons*) in Puerto Rico

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The Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) is a rare migrant in the West Indies (American Ornithologists' Union 1983) and accidental in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (Raffaele 1983). A single specimen was taken on Mona Island (18° 05' N, 67° 52' W) on 6 October 1953 (Leopold 1963, Raffaele 1983), but mainland Puerto Rico has no documented record (Wetmore 1927, Bond 1950, Biaggi 1970). McCandless (1961) listed a sight record for the Connecticut Warbler in southwestern Puerto Rico on 12 October 1958. Leopold (1963)

reported that there were "several fall sight records from Puerto Rico," but did not indicate where he obtained his information. Raffaele's (1983) statement that the species is known in Puerto Rico from a "few fall and one winter sight record," was partly based on the report given by Leopold (1963). The winter record is based on a bird seen on the Cabo Rojo Christmas Bird Count of 15 December 1974 (Willmann 1975). "One to two Connecticut Warblers" were reported on the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge, in southwestern Puerto Rico during 22 September-29 October 1986 (Norton 1987).

On 18 October 1987, McKenzie observed an immature Connecticut Warbler in a mesquite (*Prosopis pallida*) woodland near the entrance to the Bosque Estatal de Boquerón, north of Punta Pitahaya, about 4.5 km (18° 07' N, 67° 07' W) ESE of the headquarters of the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge (Municipio: Cabo Rojo; Barrio: Llanos Costa), in southwestern Puerto Rico. The warbler was flushed from the ground at the base of a mesquite brush pile, where it was foraging for caterpillars [*Mocis latipes* (Lepidoptera:Noctuidae)] among the blades and culms of buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*). After remaining motionless for a short period on top of the brush pile, the bird returned to the ground, where it continued searching for caterpillars. Nearby (about 75 m) was a large, mixed-species flock of Shiny Cowbirds (*Molothrus bonariensis*), Greater Antillean Grackles (*Quiscalus niger*), Yellow-shouldered Blackbirds (*Agelaius xanthomus*), Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*Coccyzus americanus*), and Troupials (*Icterus icterus*) that also were foraging on the same caterpillars taken by the Connecticut Warbler.

On 24 October 1987, McKenzie observed an adult Connecticut Warbler in mesquite woodland, about 500 m SW of the observation of 18 October. The bird was flushed from the ground, where it was foraging in a small colony of *Panicum maximum*. After the warbler momentarily perched in stump sprouts of an Ucar (*Bucida buceras*), it returned to the ground.

For both individuals, identification was based on the large bill, buff-white eye ring, buff-gray throat (more brownish in immature), large pink feet, distinct outline of a grayish-brown hood (more brownish in immature), slender profile, conspicuous long undertail coverts extending almost to the end of the tail (giving the birds a short-tailed appearance), and walking habits. These features are characteristic and together diagnostic for this species (DeSante 1983, Scott 1983). McKenzie has field experience with this species in fall plumage in West Virginia and is extensively acquainted with the Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*), the species most likely to be confused with the Connecticut Warbler in this region.

The Connecticut Warbler should be expected, although irregularly, in Puerto Rico during migration because it apparently lies within the general migration route of this species from its breeding range in North America ["east-central British Columbia east across central Alberta, central Saskatchewan, central Manitoba and north-central Ontario to west-central Quebec, and south to southern Manitoba, northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, central Michigan and south-central Ontario" (American Ornithologists' Union 1983)] and its winter range in northeastern South America ["northern and western Venezuela in the Distrito Federal, Carabobo and Mérida; northeastern Colombia in Santa Marta and in Vichada (Maipures); Amazonian Brazil in the rio Solimões (Tonantins), rio Madeira (Aliança), central Mato Grosso (rio São Lourenço). Aruba, Curaçao" (Meyer de Schauensee 1966:446)]. Parker (1982) reported a recent specimen taken 17 November in Peru and stated that the species is "probably overlooked throughout its winter range."

Records are few, but the Connecticut Warbler has been recorded in fall at several places in the West Indies (Chapman 1907:241, Bond 1961, Bent 1963:521). The species seems to be recorded more frequently near the northern coast of South America. For example, Bond (1961) reported that the Connecticut Warbler is "frequent on Netherlands Leeward Islands in the southern Caribbean" between 23 September- 18 November and between 9-17 May. Voous (1983:208) stated that 27 records are known from the Netherland Antilles between

27 September and 10 November and that the species "apparently migrates exclusively through the West Indies." Voous (1983:268) also reported a specimen taken on St. Martin 4 October 1956. Bent (1963), Meyer de Schauensee (1970), and Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps (1978) reported the same migrational pathway for the species, while Hilty and Brown (1986) stated that the Connecticut Warbler "apparently" migrated "SE across the West Indies." The American Ornithologists' Union (1983) listed the migrational route of the Connecticut Warbler as the Bahama Islands, Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela. Wetmore et al. (1984:291) reported that "the bulk of the population travels to and from North America via the West Indies or across the Caribbean." The scarcity of Connecticut Warbler records from the West Indies is presumably a consequence of its secretive behavior, difficulty in identification, and small population size.

The Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) winters in Cuba and the Bahama Islands and is casual or accidental on several other islands in the West Indies (American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Voous 1983:192). However, the only previous record for Puerto Rico is a sight record on Vieques Island (Williams and Williams 1985). On 24 September 1987, McKenzie saw a Yellow-throated Vireo in mesquite woodland on the proposed "Voice of America" site, about 1 km (17° 56' N, 67° 07' W) NNW of the southern terminus of Pitahaya Road (Municipio: Cabo Rojo; Barrio: Llanos Costa). The bird was observed for about five minutes while it foraged along the larger limbs and branches of mesquite. The bird's large, hooked bill and its rather sluggish foraging behavior immediately indicated that it was a vireo. In addition to the vireo bill, the lemon yellow throat and chest, yellow spectacles, olive-green back, white wing-bars, white edges on the tertials, gray rump and upper tail coverts, were in concert diagnostic for this species (Bond 1961, Armistead 1983, Scott 1983). Both authors have extensive field experience with this species in Louisiana and Mississippi.

With records from many other islands in the West Indies (see Norton 1986, 1987 for recent observations in the Virgin Islands), the Yellow-throated Vireo should be expected as a rare but regular migrant in Puerto Rico. The scarcity of records may reflect a shortage of observers.

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### Range Expansion of Beavers in Florida

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In the 1500s beavers (*Castor canadensis*) were common from the arctic tundra south to Mexico and Florida. In Florida, evidence of beavers has been found in Indian middens as far south as Seminole, Volusia and Brevard counties (Johns 1958). Beavers were known