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UNUSUAL JUNE RECORD OF CANADA WARBLER (*WILSONIA CANADENSIS*) IN BOLÍVAR, VENEZUELA

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Un reporte unusual de Reinita canadiense (*Wilsonia canadensis*) en Junio en Bolívar, Venezuela.

Key words: *Wilsonia canadensis*, Canada Warbler, Venezuela.

On 1 June 2001, I observed a male Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) while studying birds at Isla Iguana, located within Lago Guri in the state of Bolívar, Venezuela. Isla Iguana is 1.4 ha of semideciduous tropical dry forest, 1.9 km from the nearest larger island, 4.5 km from the mainland, 270 m a.s.l., and described in more detail elsewhere (Terborgh *et al.* 1997a, 1997b).

The warbler was observed as close as 10 m through 10 x 42 binoculars. Field marks included: yellow lores and eye ring forming spectacles around a dark eye; yellow throat, breast and belly broken by a bold necklace of dark, blackish dots across the chest; white vent; steel gray upperparts; and orange legs. The bird was foraging near eye-level in a vine tangle near the edge of the island. This was the only day the bird was observed on the island, despite the watchful eyes of several biologists conducting point counts and spot-mapping bird communities on this island between 27 May and 17 July that year.

In Venezuela, the Canada Warbler winters in humid montane forests in the Andes and rarely in tepuis, between 1000–1400 m a.s.l. south of the Orinoco (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978, Hilty 2003). During migration it uses a broader range of habitats including tropical dry forest (Conway 1999). It is likely that the individual I observed originated in the tepuis of southeastern Bolívar, where it is known to be a rare winter resident (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978, Hilty 2003). Isla Iguana is c. 215 km northwest from where Canada Warbler has been recorded in the tepuis, and likely along the spring migration route for a migrant heading north from the tepuis. In contrast, Isla Iguana is c. 440 km southeast of the species' nearest wintering areas in the Andes, and in the wrong direction for a migrant heading north and departing from the Andes.

The Canada Warbler typically departs South America from early March (Hilty 2003) until mid April (Bent 1953). Individuals complete their migration in 3–4 weeks (Bent 1953). Peak numbers pass through mid-continental North America in May, with apparent migrants recorded as late as early June only

in the northwestern end of its breeding range in Canada (Conway 1999). Therefore, the Venezuelan individual was starting its spring migration just as the vast majority of its brethren were finishing it. Alternatively, the possibility that this individual was spending the summer wandering in the region is not ruled out. .

The Canada Warbler is relatively little-studied compared to other North American warbler species and information regarding habitat preferences, natural history, population trends on wintering grounds, and migratory pathways are needed to help understand the steady population declines observed in this species in North America over the past 30 years (Conway 1999).

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