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Connecticut Warbler, a North American Migrant New to Ecuador

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ABSTRACT.—We present the first record of the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) for Ecuador. The bird was mist-netted and photographed on 21 November 1996 at Playa de Oro, Río Santiago, Esmeraldas Province, northwestern Ecuador. Received 15 Sept. 1998, accepted 14 Nov. 1998.

Between August 1995 and December 1996, we studied understory bird communities near the village Playa de Oro (00° 52' N, 78° 47' W) situated at about 50 m above sea-level on the Río Santiago, Esmeraldas Province, northwestern Ecuador. Since February 1997 we have carried out line transect censuses in different habitat types from 50 m to 400 m in the community of Playa de Oro, close to the border of the Cotacachi-Cayapas ecological reserve. On the morning of 21 November 1996, a warbler of the genus *Oporornis* was mist-netted in secondary vegetation near a natural backwater pond on the outskirts of Playa de Oro. The bird had a complete, pale,

whitish-yellow eye ring, very long undertail coverts, a dull brown breast band encircling a paler throat, a grayish tinged hood and grayish legs (Fig. 1). Referring to the description in Curson and coworkers (1994), we determined that the bird was a first winter Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). Its measurements were: total length (non-stretched) 125 mm, wing 65 mm, tail 43 mm, wing – tail 22 mm, bill length 11.95 mm, tarsus 19.65 mm, body mass 12.5 g. P7 and p8 were emarginated. After the bird was photographed in different positions (upperparts, underparts, laterally, and with opened wing) it was released. The photographs of the wing formula (primaries) show p9 longer than p6. The difference was not measured exactly in the field. Because a few female and immature *O. philadelphia* also have complete eye rings, it was necessary to verify the identification using wing and tail measurements. According to Lanyon and Bull (1967), *O. agilis* can usually be separated from *O. philadelphia* by a wing – tail value equal to 19 mm or more. The bird we captured showed a wing – tail value of 22 mm, hence its identification as *O. agilis* is virtually certain. Photos have been deposited at VIREO, where the identity as *O. agilis* has been confirmed by L. Bevier and R. S. Ridgely (pers. comm.), Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

Oporornis agilis is a rare to locally uncom-

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FIG. 1. Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*, captured at Playa de Oro, Esmeraldas Province, northwestern Ecuador.

mon boreal winter resident south and east of the Andes, from eastern Colombia and Venezuela south to eastern Peru, northern Bolivia and west central Brazil (Curson et al. 1994, Ridgely and Tudor 1989). Recent evidence (R. S. Ridgely, pers. comm.) indicates that the species occurs in the northern part of South America mainly as a transient, but not during the northern mid-winter months. The bird trapped in Playa de Oro apparently represents not only the first record of *O. agilis* west of the Andes but also the first record from anywhere in Ecuador (R. S. Ridgely, pers. comm.), although it had been expected in that country.

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