

rec'd 6/8/04 2004-21

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

7-0 (A)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #:		
RESULTS:		
Species: (Common Name) Lucy's Warbler		(Scientific Name) Vermivora luciae
Date(s) of occurrence: May 16 (also may 23)		
Number of birds seen: 2 or more	Sex: Male	Plumage: Adult
Exact location: Yellowjacket Canyon ~ 5 miles from the Utah border off of McElmo Canyon		
County: Montezuma	Nearest town: Cortez	Elevation: 5200 feet
Length of observation: 30+ minutes over a 2 hour period		Time(s) of observation: before 7:30 - 9:30 am
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Mona and Dean Hill, Bill and Inez Prather		
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Many		
Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Variable but generally good morning light		
Optical equipment used: Leica 10X42 Binoculars		
Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 10 - 40 m		
Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? Yes		If so, are you submitting photos? No, but others may.
Who took the photograph(s)? Dean Hill, Inez Prather, Vic Zerbi		
Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Riparian area - Cottonwood, Tamarisk, Sandbar Willows - in a desert canyon containing Pinyon-Juniper woodlands and Greasewood flats.		
Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Singing and foraging in the cottonwood trees, tamarisk, and greasewood.		
DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. A small, mostly very plain colored, passerine. Underparts, including undertail coverts, belly, flanks, sides, breast, and throat essentially pure white to whitish-gray with little variation. Wings, tail, back and nape medium gray. Uppertail coverts and top of crown a dark reddish or rust color. Crown appearing blackish at a distance or in poor light. Facial area was light gray with a rather irregular whitish "eyering" and lores. The eye itself was dark. The bill was short and relatively thin, typical of warblers. Legs and bill were blackish.		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: A short loud trill followed by a few more variable "wheeta or wheecha" notes. Most of song on the same pitch. Obvious and distinctive when heard clearly, but not particularly memorable.		
SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: The overall grayish plumage I similar to a number of other species, including Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bushtit, Warbling Vireo, and Virginia's Warbler. The reddish uppertail coverts and crown patch, effectively eliminate all other species. Other important characteristics included the white facial area, lack of white outer tail feathers, lack of yellow on the underparts, and the song.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I see and hear this species all the time in northern Arizona where I have now lived for two years.		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): None needed.		
This report was made from (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> notes made during observation <input type="checkbox"/> notes made after observation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> later from memory.		
Date and time of written report: May 31, 2004		
Reporting observer: John Prather		Signature: <i>John R. Prather</i>
Reporting observer's address: 800 West Forest Meadows		
City: Flagstaff	State: Arizona	Zip: 86001
<p>Send report to: Colorado Bird Records Committee Tony Leukering PO Box 660 Brighton, CO 80601</p>		

2004-21



Territorial Male Lucy's Warbler
Yellowjacket Canyon - Montezuma County, Colorado
May 23, 2004
Photo taken by Vic Zerbi

Record No.**22346****Code** LUWA**C Name** Lucy's Warbler**S Name** *Vermivora luciae***How Many?****Date** 5/26/04**City** Cortez**St/Prov** CO**Co** Montezuma**Nation** USA**Place** Yellowjacket Crock**Habitat** Desert riparian**Area** ABA**Tag** West**Notes**

We'd listened to a tape of the voice as we drove from Durango, so had some notion of what to listen for. We worked the area for over two hours working ever more down- stream when Susan Allerton was the first to note the song just beyond an old barbed wire fence separating the BLM portion from a private in-holding. We saw the little gray fellow singing rather high in cottonwoods; as both watched he threw his head back and launched into song-phrases that most typi- cally consist of a two-part trill, high-pitched

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5/28/04**More Notes**

and rapid, ending with two sharper notes all on the same tone. The bird gradually moved down- stream, and so did we. For the next 45 minutes to an hour we witnessed the stops and starts of apparent territorial singing, ceasing for several minutes at a time, then continuing for several minutes at intervals of perhaps five minutes apiece. It always stayed well off the ground, from 20 to 40 feet, and always remained in the cottonwoods. In time it moved back upstream to the spot we'd first encountered it, a distance curving around a gradual bend in the creek of perhaps 200 yards. Once, from a vantage point atop a 20 foot high bluff, both of us had exceptional views of the rufous rump as he flew directly away into the grove. Pale gray overall, faint paler loreal eyeline, a kiss of buff on whitish below and very active.



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