

52-73-119

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

52-73-119
accepted
JR 12/9/73

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: *Worm-Eating Warbler* (Vernacular Name) *Helminthophila vermiculosa* (Scientific Name) 2. Number: 1

3. Location: about 10 miles Northwest of Pueblo, Colo along the C&G ditch

4. Date(s): April 29, 1973

5. Time bird seen: about 2 am to 5 to 10 minutes

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field): A tannish colored warbler, no wing bars on back and tail same color tone as belly and breast but darker. The one very distinct dark eye line showed from any angle the bird was sitting. The stripe above the eye as well as the light crown stripe showed when the bird tipped its head - at certain angles all four dark stripes could be seen on the head.

7. Description of voice, if heard: no voice heard

8. Description of behavior: The bird was rather tame - it didn't move fast - sometimes it walked up a limb creeper or nutcracker style - it perched in the open on a small limb for a while

9. Habitat - general: riparian area with a small stream - apparently specific: along from the ditch sheltered area - 2 cottonwood trees

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain: There really isn't another warbler that looks that much like a worm-eating

11. Distance (how measured?): estimated - from 50 feet down to 30 feet

12. Optical equipment: 8x30 binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer): sky - clear, sunny, a little wind - area was sheltered but not shaded - sun was to my

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: saw at least 2 or 3 worm-eating warblers near San Antonio, Texas in March 1973

15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare? It is the first Pueblo, Colorado area record - unusual anywhere in Colorado

16. Other observers: none

17. Did others agree with your identification? none

18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none

19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas - R.T. Peterson

A Field Guide to North American Birds - Golden Plover

20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

Dave A. Griffiths

Street Address: 17 Sales Drive

Date Prepared: May 1, 1973

City and State: Pueblo, Colo. 81005

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)