

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD REPORT

CFO-ORG FILE # 52-75-47

☐ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☐ NEW STATE RECORD

accepted JR 9/5/75

Species: Golden-winged WarblerVermivora chrysoptera

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 9, 1975Time Bird Seen: 1:00 pmto 1:15 pmLocality: Hunter Road (across from rear of 536 Ashbury Place, Colorado Springs)arest Town: Colorado SpringsCounty: El Paso

observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Elmer E. Wills540 Ashbury Place, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80906634-5122Harry B. WillsOptical Equipment: 8 x 40 Bushnell & 8 x 40 Bushnell SportviewLight Conditions: Excellent - Sunlight - Bird was below where we stood most at the time - probably observedDistance from Bird (how measured): 15' to 20' - estimatedNumber of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: BreedingOverall Appearance and Size: 4" to 5" - See reverse

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): long, slender, black

Legs (shape and color):

Crown and Forehead: Yellow

Eye (color):

Nape:

Face: Black & white pattern Throat: BlackBreast and Sides: WhiteBelly and Flanks: WhiteUndertail Coverts: WhiteBack: GrayWings: Gray with broad yellow wingbar

Underwings:

Rump: Gray

Uppertail Coverts:

Upper Side of Tail: GrayUnder Side of Tail: White

Shape of Tail:

Voice:

Behavior: Flitted slowly - H. Wills comment was that it often moved head downward like a chickadeeHabitat: Patch of trees & shrubs adjacent to pasturePrior Experience with this Species: NoneHow Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Only Brewster's has similar wing markings but lacks the blackThis Report was Written From: Notes made during after X observation; Memory

immediately after - See reverse

Signed: Elmer E. WillsStreet Address: 540 Ashbury PlaceDate Prepared: 5/10/75Town and State: Colorado Springs, Colorado ZIP 80906

While checking out an area across from my home I caught a glimpse of the head of a bird feeding in some low bushes - no more than 2" in height - and noting the black and white with the yellow crown I immediately transferred my attention to it. When it moved so that I could see the body and wings I took time to observe the field markings then ran to get my husband. The two of us observed the bird for several minutes and I called off the field markings that I observed to him as we watched, as I knew we had a rarity and I wished to keep them in mind. As the bird began to move away from us, after some time, we returned to the house and I immediately wrote the following comments:

The bird was seen flitting about in low bushes rather slowly from bush to bush as it fed, from there to grass, into a pasture and back, then away from us into the trees.

Approximately 4" to 5" - warbler shape - Noted first the large yellow crown, then the broad heavy yellow wing bars (actually one single marking) which became diffused toward the rear. Noted the heavy black eyestripe with just a whisker's width of white separating it from the golden crown and the black throat - bluish grayish coloration, white underneath with white undertail coverts. Had the impression of possible faint tail markings as it flew but was not certain - Bill black, slender, seemed longer than on some warblers noted [Note: This could have simply been because I was looking at the bill more closely than I normally do]

The above was written hurriedly and I must admit, excitedly. Consequently it is not as precise as something written later might have been, nor as complete, but I chose to write it before making reference to field guides so that I should not be influenced by them.

John L. Lilled