

52-90-49
A

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Golden-winged Warbler | Vermivora chrysoptera
(Vernacular name) | (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 19 May 1990 Time Bird Seen: ~10:30 to ~11:00 a.m.
for 10 mins.

Locality: Olive Marsh
Pueblo, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: _____ Plumage: breeding

Light conditions: Excellent; good sun from side

Distance from bird, and how measured: Approx 75 yds., estimated.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:
Foraging high in cottonwoods. Picks and probes along
branches & branch tips. Often hangs upside down.
Rarely perches in open along leafless branches.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
Riparian woodland & overall marshy area.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
Many including Duane Nelson, Van Truan, Peter Grant
Nick Watmough (who found it).

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern: details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Smallish, slender warbler, about 5" long. Bill small, slender and pointed. Basically white below and medium-gray above. Lighter gray on head and nape. Black mask on face includes black eye. Black triangular bib (chin & throat). Forehead and fore-crown golden yellow. Large yellow wing patch on folded wing.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery--i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Song, given occasionally was a soft buzzy series of short notes.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

No other warbler has black face patch & bib with yellow wing patch.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen Golden-winged W. in Texas and the east.

This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory .

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205