

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
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.

Dates (s): 20 May 1991 Time Bird Seen: 12:30 pm to 12:45 pm

Locality: Hannah Ranch  
Fountain, Colo.  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: one Sex: male Plumage: breeding

Light conditions: Bright sun; excellent

Distance from bird, and how measured: 30-75 feet, estimated.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Foraging slowly in tree tops. Fairly active periods followed by quiet moments when the bird would be hard to find, ~~at~~ perching stillly. Sang repeatedly in treetops

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian Woodland, Cottonwoods.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

John, Bill and Tracy Prather

APPENDIX 11 Continued

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. *Small warbler, about 5" long with slender, pointed bill. Dark grey above, whitish below. Yellow forehead and yellow patch in wing. Black mask on face. Black chin & vix.*

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

*Song a quiet, breathy series of short notes, given repeatedly from the tree tops.*

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

*Lawrence Warbler yellow below.*

Prior experience with this and similar species:

*I saw a male Golden-winged Warbler in Pueblo in 1990, and others in Ill. & S. Wis. in 1979 and in 1980's.*

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_ observation;  
from memory

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205