

A

CFO-ORC FILE # 52-91-60

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD : ☐ UNUSUAL RECORD : ☒ X :

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

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

Date(s): 8/20 and 8/26, 1991

Number of birds seen: one Sex: Female Plumage: Adult

Locality: Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Elevation:
5400'

Nearest town: Wheat Ridge County: Jefferson

Time(s) observed: Morning both times

Duration of observation: The bird was very furtive: five seconds the first time and two times totalling one minute the second time.

Others who saw the bird with you (names and addresses): None. I called Robert Spencer, who was able to see it on 8/21. I put it on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, but did not get feedback about other people seeing it.

Others who saw the bird independently: Robert Spencer.

Light conditions in relationship to bird: Morning sunlight, with sun behind my back and illuminating the bird.

Optical equipment used: Bushnell 10 X 40 binoculars.

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

Who else photographed the bird?

Describe the bird's behavior. Foraged low in shrubby willows along a brook when first seen. On 8/28, fed close to the ground in sapling narrow-leaf cottonwoods. Never higher than 10 feet above the ground, and usually within 5' of the ground.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually saw in the field. A small bird, smaller than a Yellow-rumped warbler. About all I could see the first time was the head and upper breast of the bird. The bill was long and

thin and not hooked at the tip. The head was very strongly patterned, with a yellow patch on the forehead. The yellow was pale and subdued compared with the bright yellow forehead of a male. The ear coverts were black and sharply separated from the off-white lines above and below the patch. The throat was an unusual medium gray, and shaped much like the bib on a chickadee. The underparts were unstreaked. On the second sighting, in addition to the face and head, I was able to observe the rest of the bird. The back was a uniform pale gray, with no streaking. The bird had a bright yellow, single-appearing wingbar. When the bird flew, white tailspots were visible on the underside of the tail.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): Silent

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: Riparian woodland near small brook. It preferred areas that were shrubby rather than areas where there were tall trees.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? Even the female of this species is unique. The areas of yellow on most other warbler species is much more extensive. The Dendroica warblers with black throats tend to be much more yellow, or have heavily streaked breasts and flanks. Hybrids between Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers are the most likely birds to be confused with this species, but Brewster's lacks a dark throat and Lawrence's has yellow on the breast and belly.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen Golden-winged Warblers four previous times in Colorado, including two other fall migrants in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, and most recently in May 1991 during the CFO Convention in Pueblo. I have seen several (males and females) in Illinois, Michigan and Texas previously.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: National Geographic, Peterson Eastern.

This report was written from reports made during (X), after observation (), from memory ().

Date and time report was written: 2/24/92

Reporting observer: Duane Nelson

Signature:



Address: 1619 Ford St., Golden, CO 80401

All reports will be maintained with the Curator of Zoology, Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, CO 80205.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Golden-winged Warbler / Vermivora chrysoptera
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): Wed. August 21, 1991Number of birds seen: one Sex: ♀ Plumage: POST BREEDING

Latilong: _____ Distribution Code: _____ Habitat Code: _____

Locality: Wheat Ridge Greenbelt-treebridge^{area} Elevation: 5400 ftNearest town: WHEAT RIDGE County: JEFFERSONTime(s) observed: ABOUT 8:05 IN MORNING - 2 VERY GOOD LOOKS & LATER
2 LONGER LOOKS.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): ALL WITHIN 10 MIN.

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

DUANE NELSONGOLDEN 277-9748

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

NOT KNOWN

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

VERY GOOD - LIGHT ON BIRD BOTH TIMESOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 X 40 B&L ELITE BINOCSDistance and how measured: 15 to 20 FT ESTIMATEDIf photographed, type of equipment and film: N/AWho else photographed the bird: N/A

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

FEEDING & SEARCHING IN LOW WILLOW TREES

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

A WARBLER SIZE BIRD WITH A GOLDEN CROWN PATCH;BLACK MASK THROUGH EYES; GRAY BLACK ON UPPER CHEST AND

Description (continued): THROAT: LARGE GOLDEN PATCH (BROKEN) ON WING
(WHERE WINGBARS ARE USUALLY FOUND); WHITE UNDER PARTS; BROWN
GRAY WINGS & BACK; AND ~~THE~~ LARGE WHITE SPOTS ON UNDER SIDE
OF TAIL

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery,
(i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

NOT HEARD

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

LOW OPEN SMALL LEAFED BUSH LIKE TREES.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? - THERE IS NO U.S.
WARBLER LIKE THIS. CHESTNUT SIDED HAD GOLDEN CROWN BUT
HAS WHITE THROAT - CHESTNUT SIDES IMMATURE LACKS GOLDEN
CROWN BEING MORE GREENISH - ALL WHITE THROAT & CHEST.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

STUDIED THIS SPECIES BUT NOT SEEN. EXTENSIVE DEAR
WITH WARBLERS

List books, illustration, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how
this influenced your identification:

a) At time of observation: NONE

b) After observation: PETERSON'S FIELDGUIDES (2) GOLDEN GUIDE

This report was written from reports made during X, after
observation _____, from memory _____

Date and time report was written: MARCH 4 1992

Reporting observer: ROBERT A. SPENCER Signature: Robert A. Spencer

Address: 4430 GLADIS LA ST. GOLDEN 80403

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205