

SPECIES: GOLDEN-WINGED WAZBELLER | VERMIVORA CHRYSOPTERA
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

DATE(S): JULY 17, 1993 TIME OF OBSERVATION: ~ 7:50 A.M. TO 8:20 A.M.

EXACT LOCATION: ROY BOROUGHS PARK

NEAREST TOWN: LAKEWOOD COUNTY: DOUGLASS

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:
J.B. HANES, JOEY KELLNER, CHRIS WOOD

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: SWIFT ANDERSON 8.5x44 BINOCULARS

WEATHER CONDITIONS: OVERCAST, COOL, SLIGHT BREEZE

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: N/A (SEE ABOVE)

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 10 YARDS (ESTIMATED) MIN. - 20 YARDS MAX.

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 2 SEX: 1 ADULT MALE 1 JUVENILE PLUMAGE: 1 ADULT BRISBANK, 1 FIRST SUMM

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: THE ADULT MALE WAS CONSTANTLY FORAGING FOOD. THE JUVENILE TENDED TO STAY NEAR THE BASE OF THICK CLUMPS OF VEGETATION. OSCEOLA OAK. THE ADULT WOULD FORAGE FROM THE GROUND UP TO ABOUT 6' IN HEIGHT. WHEN THE JUVENILE BEGAN CALLING IT WOULD TAKE IT FOOD. THE MALE COULD BE SEEN MANY TIMES OUT IN THE OPEN. THE JUVENILE REMAINED SECLUDED AND WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE. I WAS ONLY ABLE TO VIEW ITS BACK AND THE SIDE OF ITS HEAD AND FLANKS A FEW TIMES. I WAS ONLY ABLE TO SEE THE ADULT ACTUALLY PASS FOOD ONE TIME. THE OTHER TIMES THEY WERE TOO WELL HIDDEN. HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.):

ADULT - BRIGHT YELLOW FOREHEAD FROM BILL EXTENDING BACK OVER MOST OF THE CROWN. A DARK DROP ON THE BLACK PATCH OVER THE EYE & AURICULAR AREA. WITH A SLIGHT WHITISH STREAK ALONG THE UPPER BACK AND FURTH
JUVENILE - A LIGHT GREEN FOREHEAD & CROWN AREA SIMILAR IN COLOR TO THAT OF A FALL CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. THE RE OF THE FACE AND HEAD WAS A DRAK OLIVE GREEN. EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.): THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED BLACK PATCH WAS THE PROMINENT FEATURE HERE. A WHITISH/GRAY BROADENING MALAR AREA FORMED BETWEEN THE EYE & THROAT PATCHES ON THE ADULT.

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): ADULT - LONG, POINTED, AND BLACK. JUVENILE - THE GLIMPSES I HAD LOOKED DARK.

LEGS & FEET: ADULT - A DARK BLACKISH COLOR. NOT NOTED ON THE JUVENILE.

UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): ADULT - A MEDIUM GRAY FROM THE YELLOW PATCH ALL THE WAY DOWN THE BACK. MAYBE A LITTLE LIGHTER IN THE UPPERTAIL COVERTS. JUVENILE - DRAK OLIVE GREEN DOWN THE NAPE AND MANTLE TO MID-BACK. AT THAT POINT THE PLUMAGE TURNED TO A GRAY SIMILAR TO THE ADULTS. (MAYBE A LITTLE DARKER.)

UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.): ADULT - ENTIRELY BLACK PATCH ON THE CHIN AND THROAT. IT BROKE FAIRLY EVENLY AT THE START OF THE BREAST. THE BREAST AND BELLY WERE A DIRTY WHITE COLOR. THE PLUMES FADDED INTO A LIGHTER GRAY TOWARD THE WINGS. I DID NOT OBSERVE THIS AREA ON THE JUVENILE.

RETRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):

ADULT - THE TAIL WAS A MEDIUM GRAY WITH BLACKISH ENDS AND EDGES ALONG THE OUTER FEATHERS. JUVENILE - I ONLY CAUGHT GLIMPSSES OF THE TAIL. IT APPEARED TO BE GRAY.

WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): ADULT - A BRIGHT YELLOW WING PATCH. THE SECONDARIES WERE OLIVE GREEN WITH TRACES OF YELLOW. THE PRIMARIES APPEARED VERY DARK GRAY TO BLACK. JUVENILE - A YELLOWISH/OLIVE GREEN WING PATCH WAS READILY DEFINABLE. THE SECONDARIES WERE OLIVE GREEN, AND THE PRIMARIES DARK.

VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight): WHEN I FIRST OBSERVED THE BIRDS BOTH WERE MAKING A BUZZING SOUND. AFTER A FEW MINUTES ONLY THE JUVENILE CALLED, OR 'BUZZED' WHEN IT WANTED FOOD. THE JUVENILE'S CALL WAS THINNER & A LITTLE HIGHER THAN THE ADULT'S.

HABITAT: A DRAINAGE WITH THICK VEGETATION PRIMARILY COMPOSED OF SCRUB OAK AND COTTON WOODS.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

BLACK-CAPPED OR MOUNTAIN CHICKADEES ARE SIMILAR, BUT LACK THE ~~RED~~ YELLOW CROWN AND WING PATCH. THEIR BILLS ARE ALSO MUCH SHORTER AND NOT AS POINTED. BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS HAVE A SIMILAR EYE PATCH AND THROAT PATCH. HOWEVER, THEY LACK THE YELLOW CROWN AND WING PATCH. ALSO THE THROAT PATCH EXTENDS DOWN FURTHER, AND THE BILL IS NOT QUITE AS POINTED ON THE BLACK-THROATED GRAY. A TOWNSEND'S WREATHER COULD BE CONSIDERED, BUT THE YELLOW IS ON THE FACE AND NOT THE TOP OF THE HEAD. ON A BLACKBOLL WARBLER THE PATCH DOES NOT COVER THE ENTIRETY AND ARTICULATED, AND IT DOES NOT HAVE BRIGHT YELLOW ON IT.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

THIS IS THE FIRST GOLDEN WING I HAVE EVER SEEN. I HAVE SEEN VERY NUMEROUS AMOUNTS OF CHICKADEES, AND A FAIR NUMBER OF TOWNSEND'S IN THE FAULT IN CALIFORNIA. IT HAS BEEN AT LEAST FOUR YEARS SINCE I HAVE SEEN A BLACK-THROATED GRAY, BUT HAVE OBSERVED THEM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH BLACKBOLLS.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: THE SULKING BEHAVIOR OF THE JUVENILE MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO OBSERVE. THE ADULT MALE WAS INCREDIBLY COOPERATIVE. NO FEMALE WAS SEEN THE ENTIRE TIME. THE ADULT DID NOT EXHIBIT HYBRID TRAITS.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

I VIEWED THE NATIONAL GEO BOOK WHILE OBSERVING AND TAKING NOTES FOR THIS REPORT.

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ AFTER OBSERVATION; ☒ FROM MEMORY

NAME: STEVE STACHOWIAK SIGNATURE: Steve Stachowiak DATE: 7-17-93

BILL, I HAVE FORWARDED A COPY TO HUGH KENNELLY.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒Presumed
First breeding
record for Colorado

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

Species: Golden-winged Warbler / Vermivora chrysoptera
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): July 16 and 17, 1993Number of birds seen: 1 adult / 1 fledgling Sex: Male / ? Plumage: Year round / fledgling

Latilong: _____ Distribution Code: _____ Habitat Code: _____

Locality: Roxborough State Park, along
creek and entrance road, where
they cut through the Dakota Highway Elevation: 6200'Nearest town: Littleton, CO County: DouglasTime(s) observed: 10:00am - 11:45am July 16, 1993
8:00a - 9:00am July 17, 1993Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): Periods of a minute, more
or less, during the encountersOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
on July 17, 1993: Joey Kellner - 8412 W. Hinsdale Pl. Littleton, CO 979-1748
Steve Stachowicz - 14944 E. Caspian Pl. Aurora, CO 750-3422
None on July 16, 1993
Chris Wood - 4445 S. Van Gordon Way, Morrison, CO 697-9032Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): July 18, 1993Ann 4377 W. Geddes Dr. Littleton, CO 979-6211
BonnetLight conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light): Bright sun, high in the sky, viewing direction southward into sun but not
bothersome. Adult male flitted from open sun to deep shade while foraging.
Fledgling remained in shade close to ground in thick shrubbery.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Zeiss 10x40 G/BAT* binocularsDistance and how measured: 15 to 100 ft. (15 ft. is as close as my binoculars
will focus)

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird: _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): The adult male foraged continuously through the scrub oaks, cottonwoods,
willows, grasses, and leaf litter on the ground, with the fledgling winging him on with its feeding call.
Very few minutes the male fed the youngster, which took only seconds. I witnessed feeding twice; once
a male looked like shiny little black bugs. The fledgling moved twice during the time I watched, 20 to 40 ft
each time. I think there was only one fledgling, because I heard only one calling at a time.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: The male Golden-winged Warbler is easy to identify
The golden-yellow crown, black eye patch, black throat and broad golden wing bay stand
out prominently on an otherwise gray+white bird. I had many clear and close looks
at it while it foraged. The fledgling was harder to observe, because it stayed in
thick growth in the shade about a foot above ground. On good look revealed a plump,
nearly tailless bird, not as big as its parent. Its back and wings were olive-drab,

with a prominent pale wing bar, which presumably will be
Description (continued): golden in adult plumage. Its underside was very pale olive and almost whitish. Its stubby tail was medium gray with white streaks and flecking. The long, slender bill of the species was apparent in the fledgling.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): The adult male was generally silent, except for rare single call notes and buzzes. The fledgling was quite vocal. Its call is a soft, staccato insect-like buzz. This call was given singly, or in rapid-fire bursts, or most commonly, in Morse-code like bursts of shorter and longer buzzes. The bursts were separated by two to four minutes of silence. During my best look at the fledgling, from about 15 feet I saw and heard it calling, and immediately the male appeared and fed it, leaving little doubt about parentage.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: The birds were along a very small creek where it cuts through the Dakota hogback. Small brushy willows, narrow-leaved cottonwoods, and grasses grow along the creek, and Gambel's oak thickets are on the slope immediately above. Roxborough State Park is characterized by habitat diversity on a small scale.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? The male Golden-winged Warbler apparently is the only North American warbler combining a black throat, golden crown, and black eye patch. I don't have any descriptions or pictures of fledglings for comparison.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I saw several in Texas during spring migration in 1992. Most significant: In May, 1992, I found and reported a singing male Golden-winged Warbler about 200 yards west (upstream) of the place where the 1993 birds were. The 1992 bird was seen by many birders for at least two weeks. No female bird was reported in 1992, and none has been seen in 1993. The fledgling's mother is either somewhere else (maybe feeding another fledgling?), departed, list books, illustration, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification: or dead.

a) At time of observation: National Geographic Society Field Guide to Birds of North America, 2nd ed. 100% positive field ID of adult male.

b) After observation: _____

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____, from memory X $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after observation _____

Date and time report was written: July 16, 1993 12:15 pm

Reporting observer: J. B. Hayes Signature: John B. Hayes

Address: 1517 W. Briarwood Ave. Littleton, CO 80120

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

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