

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

52-94-61

ACCEPTED

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER
Vermivora chrysoptera

Location: Nee Noshe Reservoir, about 15 miles SE of Eads, Kiowa County, Colorado

Date: May 1, 1994

Setting:

I discovered this bird in the "locust grove" bordering the ring of cottonwoods and Russian olive around the south-west shore of Nee Noshe Res. The day was partly overcast. I found the bird foraging near the tops of the trees in the locust and olives. I observed the bird mid-morning, for about 5 minutes at about 30-50 feet distance with B & L 10 x 40 binoculars. Trees were only partly leafed out so viewing conditions were very good.

Description:

The bird was a male in breeding plumage. It was small and slender, about 5" long. It had a very small, slim and pointed black bill. It was reminiscent of the pattern of a chickadee when I first saw it. Overall the bird was medium gray above and white below. It had a pale gray wash on the flanks. Overlaying this gray and white ground color was a distinct black mask around the eye and a black chin, throat and bib with a clean lower border against the white breast. The forehead and fore-crown had an odd yellow wash. There was a broad yellow panel of yellow in the wing instead of wingbars. The bird had a proportionately short tail that was white underneath.

Similar Species:

The small size, slim shape and acute bill indicate a warbler. The black face patch and bib rule out most other warblers. Black-throated Gray lacks the yellow patches and has streaked flanks. Townsend's Warbler has a yellow face and underparts and has two white wing bars.

Experience with Species:

I have seen quite a few Golden-winged Warblers before, including three others in Colorado.

This report is prepared memory.

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