

Accepted (7-0)

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

Vermivora chrysopteraLocation: Lake Henry; Ordway; Crowley County, ColoradoDate: May 28, 1995Setting:

I birded the grove on the north side of Lake Henry from 7:00 a.m. until 1:30p.m. this day. This was a fantastic day with several good warblers (Bay-breasted, Mourning, Parula, Blackpoll, Nashville, Redstart, Waterthrush) and other birds (Great-crested Flycatcher, "Baltimore" Oriole, Veery). I found the Golden-winged in the grove along the north canal. It was in the very dense stand of small cottonwoods. I only saw this bird once all morning, at about 11:00 a.m. It foraged at low heights, about 6-8 feet high. It was quite active, feeding in small branches and twigs low down, sometimes hanging like a chickadee. I observed it with my B & L 10x40 binoculars from about 25 feet away. Although I only watched it briefly (about 2 minutes), the conditions and light were excellent and I got good looks. Miriam Friggenes, from Boulder, also saw this bird this day.

Description:

The bird was a breeding-plumaged male. It was a small, slender and pale warbler, about 5" long. The bill was very slim, sharply pointed and black. The bird was medium gray above and white below. The crown (especially the forecrown) was golden-yellow. There was a large yellow wing panel and the edgings to the flight feathers in the folded wing were yellow. It had a black face patch and a black bib (chin and throat). The tail was medium length and gray above. This bird was silent.

Similar Species:

The small size, slim shape and sharp 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 four others in Colorado.

This report was prepared from notes made during and after observation.

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