

CFO-RC FILE#: 1998-115

ACCEPTED (70) rec'd 7-2-98

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM**

SPECIES: GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: May 16, 1998

NUMBER(S) OF BIRDS SEEN: one

SEX: male

PLUMAGE: Adult

LOCATION: Alamosa Canyon at the Bridge that crosses near Jacobs Hill

COUNTY: Conejos

NEAREST TOWN: Capulin

ELEVATION: 7800

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 10 minutes

TIMES OF OBSERVATION: 1145-1155am

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S): No one.

LIGHT CONDITIONS (Quality and Relationship to Bird) It was close to high noon, sun directly overhead.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: Swift Trylytes 8X40

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (Estimated unless otherwise noted) About 70 feet

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? No

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS?

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD OCCURRED: Bird was feeding in the tops of Narrowleaf Cottonwoods that were just starting to flower with long catkins. Cottonwoods were near the Alamosa River.

DESCRIBE THE BIRDS BEHAVIOR (FLYING, FEEDING, HABITS, BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORT OF THE IDENTIFICATION): Feeding and flitting, gleaning insects in Cottonwoods trees.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO THE MARKS/FEATURES YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD. (Include size, shape, plumage, tail etc.): We were in the middle of our spring bird count. I had walked along the glacial outwash terrace that lies about 50 feet above the Alamosa river and floodplain. This elevation had me looking into tree tops at the same level. I noticed two warblers flitting in those trees. I immediately recognized the first bird as an Orange-crowned Warbler. The other was quite a rush to see a male Golden-winged warbler. The bird was approximately the same size as the Orange-crowned. I noted Black throat and chin, dark bill, dark eyeline with light color in between creating a distinct face pattern. The black of the throat ended sharply at the upper breast. The forehead and part of the crown had yellow wash to it that was brilliant in the overhead light. The back of the bird appeared grayish as well as the tail. The grayish wings had a clearly visible wash of yellow across the length of the secondaries. Warbler bill. Whitish underparts.

DESCRIBE SONG/CALLS IF ANY: None.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM: Warbler bill eliminates vireos and other birds. Among warblers, nearest include Blue-winged warbler, Brewsters, Prothonotary, which lacks black throat. Lawrences has yellow underparts. Hard to confuse this species.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?
Have seen previously in Texas.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION). National Geographic

HOW RARE IS THIS BIRD FOR THIS AREA? This bird would be the first record for the San Luis Valley area (Andrews and Righter, 1992.). Bird would be Latilong first for #25 Monte Vista Block (Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study, 1987).

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM...notes and sketches I made moments after observation and memory. .

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: May 19, 1998.

REPORTING OBSERVER: John J. Rawinski

SIGNATURE John J. Rawinski

SEND REPORT TO: MARK JANOS, 10 SEDUM COURT, PUEBLO, CO 81001



- Warbler sized, approximately same size as nearby Orange-Crowned Warbler
- Warbler bill
- Breast light gray/whitish
- Back grayish brown to gray
- Tail grayish
- Chin, throat black, stopped abruptly @ breast.
- Tail dark gray/brown.
- Crown, forehead with yellow wash