

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER----*Vermivora pinus*

The CFO Official Records Committee has completed its review of a new species reported from the state, the Blue-winged Warbler. Based upon the documentation presented to support this Sight Report, the Committee has ruled to accept this species and approve its inclusion on the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado. Three observers are credited with making this observation, recording the occurrence and supplying details to the Committee. On May 9, 1970, Mr. Willis C. Royall, Jr. of Lakewood and Mr. C. Edward Knittle of Arvada observed one adult Blue-winged Warbler along the north bank of the South Platte River near the Kassler Water Works at Waterton, Jefferson County. Mr. Knittle first observed the bird about 8:00 A.M. He notified Mr. Royall who independently found and observed apparently the same bird about 11:00 A.M. On the following day, May 10, Mr. Hugh Kingery of Denver successfully located this bird at the same site at approximately 5:00 A.M. All three observers submitted written reports of their sightings. Mr. Knittle reported (in part):

"Small size, about size of Virginia's Warbler or Parula. The characteristics that immediately caught my eye were the black beak, black eye-line and solid yellow chest and undersides. Wings were bluish with wing-bars. Flitted among low bushes along the river bank. The bird was silent."

Mr. Royall stated (in part):

"I spotted the bird so close to me that binoculars were almost a hindrance. It remained in the open and I had an unobstructed view for only a few seconds, but there was no doubt whatever. The narrow black eye-line and the white wing-bars were quite distinct along with the generally bright yellow head and underparts. It was actively foraging among the thickets and vines along the river bottom. The bird was silent."

Mr. Royall further stated that he was very familiar with this species from Connecticut where he found them nesting.

Mr. Kingery reported (in part):

"I walked to the place where it had been, about one-quarter of a mile below the bridge at Waterton, walked through the viny grove of box elder, grape and cottonwood and heard the bird singing-- a song I had not heard before. About ten feet away I observed a perfectly marked male of gold and blue markings. It sang for some time and was not particularly bashful."

Chairman's Comment: Undoubtedly it was only a matter of time until a well documented report was received to support a sighting of a Blue-winged Warbler. The Committee is currently reviewing two additional reports of sightings of this species made subsequent to the May 9 and 10, 1970 occurrence. Results of these investigations will be published when the Committee has concluded its review.



CHAIRMAN  
CFO Official Records Committee

July 30, 1974



Accepted JR 7/30/1974

## VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: BLUE-WINGED WARBLER Vermivora pinus 2. Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: North bank of S. Platte R. east of water tower bridge.
4. Date(s): May 9, 1970 5. Time bird seen: ~ 8:50<sup>AM</sup> to 11:00<sup>AM</sup>
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):  
Size was smallish, about the size of a Virginia warbler or Parula. The characteristics that immediately caught my eye were the black beak, black eyeline and solid yellow chest and underside, but with wing bars. Several minutes of interrupted observation then revealed the back and tail coloration. The leg color was not determined. The characteristics noted made immediate I.D. very easy as well as closeness of observation.
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: Flitted among Hawthorne bushes (in hot position at this bird I.D.) from low, near ground level, to about eye level.
9. Habitat-general: River bank - low growing vegetation interspersed cottonwoods  
specific: Hawthorne "typical" bush
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:  
- Not yellow wble. because of clean breast  
- Not Wilson's wble. - no eye line or wing bars on Wilson's.
11. Distance (how measured?): estimated 20 feet to 25 feet.
12. Optical equipment: 9x binocs.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):  
sky clear, sun bright glowering over my right shoulder from behind.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
None with this species. See #10.
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare? After making I.D. in Robbins and realizing it was an eastern species. I then had never seen it before.
16. Other observers: Verified by Willis C. Royall, Gen. Wildl. Res. CTR.
17. Did others agree with your identification? Positively
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: None
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: (1) Robinson's Birds of N. Am. (2) Peterson's Field Guide to Birds (3) Backy and Nisdrach's Birds of Colo. (1965).
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:
- C. Edward Krutts Street Address: 7711 Lewis St.  
Signature  
Date Prepared: 11-9-73 City and State: Arvada, Colo 80005

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)



Accepted JR 7/30/1974

## VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: BLUE-WINGED WARBLER | Vermivora pinus 2. Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: Watertown (E of Kessler Water Works, N of S. Matter R.)
4. Date(s): May 9, 1970 5. Time bird seen: mid to late AM
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):
- When E. Knittle told me he had seen this bird in mid-AM in a certain place, I had him lead me there. I was separated from him when I spotted the bird so close to me that binocs were almost a hindrance. It remained in the open & I had an unobstructed view for only a few seconds but there was no doubt whatever. The narrow black eye line & the white wingbars were quite distinct along with the general bright yellow head & underparts.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard
8. Description of behavior: actively foraging about eye-level & lower
9. Habitat--general: riverbottom (cottonwoods, scattered thickets, meadow)  
specific: thicket (shrubs & vines)
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:  
Wilson. Warbler - has no wing bars Prothon. warbler - has no wing bars  
Yellow " - has red streaks in breast
11. Distance (how measured?): about 15 feet
12. Optical equipment: 7 x 30 binocs
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):  
clear, sunny day - no problem with sun - good light
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I was very familiar with Blue-W warblers in Connecticut where I found them nesting. Well acquainted with other warblers mentioned above, from years lived in east & southeast as well as west.
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?  
It was the only one I've seen in the W. U.S.
16. Other observers: Edward Knittle
17. Did others agree with your identification? yes
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: E. Knittle
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: Robbins field guide Bailey & Mearns  
Peterson
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

Signature

Date Prepared: 11-12-73Street Address: 1675 S. Urban WayCity and State: Lakewood, Colo 80228

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)



accepted JR 7/30/1974

## VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: BLUE-WINGED WARBLER | Vermivora pinus 2. Number: one  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: Waterton, Jefferson County Colorado
4. Date(s): ~~xxxxxx~~ May 10, 1970 5. Time bird seen: 56:00 a.m. to \_\_\_\_\_
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):
- I have little recollection of the field marks, and lack notes. The bird had been seen the day before on the Spring County, by several people. I walked to the place where it had been, about 1/4 mile below the bridge at Waterton, walked through the viny grove of box elder, grape, and cottonwood, and heard the bird singing, a song I had not heard before. About 10 feet away, the perfectly marked male had therequisite gold, and ~~xxxxxx~~ blue markings. It sang for some time, and was not particularly abashful. However, Bill Brockner came down an hour or two later and could not find the bird.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Don't recall; it did sing some.
8. Description of behavior: Sang from perch in top of low bush--about 3-5 feet above the ground.
9. Habitat--general: Cottownwood river bottom  
specific: Tangly grove of box elder, wild plum, wild grape, & cottonwood
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:
11. Distance (how measured?): 10 feet by memory
12. Optical equipment: 7/35 binoc.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer): good early morning light or open shade
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I've never seen it ~~before~~ or since.
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?  
Above
16. Other observers: Previous day, Jack Welch, et al.
17. Did others agree with your identification?  
yes
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: No books consulted, as you can see.
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:  
I took picutres, but my equipment was inadequate the pictures awful (and thrown away).
- Signature: Leigh Sugen Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Prepared: Nov. 2, 1973 City and State: 10 Emerson--denver 80218
- (USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)
- One striking thing about the observation: part of the time this striking yellow and blue warbler sang from a perch in a wild plum tree which was in full blossom.