

Species: BLUE-WINGED WARBLERVermivora pinus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 25 May 1977Time Bird Seen: ca. 8:00 A.M. toLocality: Boulder, Boulder Creek below Sewall HallNearest Town: BoulderCounty: Boulder

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

NoneOptical Equipment: Bushnell 7x35 binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: good: clear, sunnyDistance from bird (how measured): 20 feet (paced)Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: adult male

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: My attention was drawn to the area by a great deal of noise and movement among the yellow warblers passing through or breeding (I suspect) in this stretch of stream bottom (a pair of yellow warblers had a nest not far from here). In the midst of this, I heard an unfamiliar warbler note. After a brief search, I found a female warbler in the shrubbery directly ahead of me (about 15-20 feet, 3 ft off ground). As I was trying to figure out what it was, it moved off, and its place was taken by the bird I identified as the blue-winged. The blue-winged sat in the same place for about 10 sec, then disappeared...

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern.

Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field: (cont'd) into the shrubbery.

My guess is that the first bird was the female blue-winged, but I am not sure. At any rate, I had but a brief look at the second bird. About half an hour later, in the same area, I heard the same note, but was unable to locate the bird.

As for the description, let me run through things in the order I became aware of them. My first reaction was that the bird was a warbler, namely, about the same size and shape as the yellow warbler, color predominantly yellow (duller than the yellow warbler male). My second reaction was to look at the wings for the wingbars: indeed, the wings were dark. (slate gray or blue) And there were two wingbars. (white) At this point, I was pretty sure I had a blue-winged, and I settled down to look it over. My attention turned to the head, which was the same light yellow, and to what I later found out was "diagnostic": a black line through the eye. That -- those three stages -- is about all that I became conscious of as I looked at the bird. Let me say that if anything had differed from my tentative identification, I would have noticed it: if it had been a vireo, for example, I would have noted the bill. I suppose all these things are implicit in the initial identification of a warbler. Unfortunately, the field guides have trained me all too well; this, and the fact I had so little time make a fuller description hard to give.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: The most I can say in this respect is that (1) my attention was attracted to the general vicinity of the bird by an unfamiliar call note; it was unlike any call note of any breeding warbler in this area, and I can only say that it had a "zing" to it; (2) I cannot be sure, however, that this note fit the bird I saw; the latter made no sound as I was watching it.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: This particular area varies between woody and bushy; and, of course, the large former ice rink creates a sizable open area. This particular spot is the shrubbery along the fence that separates the path from the ice rink. It lies at the foot of the hillside shrubbery and trees that lie directly beneath the women's gymnasium.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated? If one narrows the field immediately to warblers, the yellow warbler is eliminated by the darker wings and wingbars, the Wilson's by the lack of a black cap, the prothonotary (itself unlikely) by color and the wingbars. Let me be more exact: the male yellow warbler is eliminated by the wings and wingbars and by the fact that this bird had no breast streakings; the male prothonotary by wingbars and general (lighter yellow) coloration; the male Wilson's by lack of black cap. As I look through Robbins et al., I see several possibilities among female warblers, but the combination of wingbars and eyeline eliminates all: prothonotary, yellow, Wilson's, hooded. As I look through Robbins et al., let me note that the yellow on the bird I saw was lighter than is shown there: that is, it was a lighter, subtler, and less rich yellow, though it could be characterized as a bright yellow. It was most definitely not the dull yellow of the orange-crowned

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: Seen before several times, not often, in the East. Am very familiar with all the warblers that breed locally and with most of the eastern warblers.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Robbins et al. and Peterson. They influenced me before, rather than after, I saw the bird. Otherwise, I used ^{them} ~~not~~ to deal with similarly appearing species.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory _____

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