

✓ SPECIES:

Blue-Winged Warbler

52-89-39

LOCATION:

Lyons

DATE:

May 05, 1989.

CONDITIONS:

Observed for about 20 minutes between 10:00 and 11:00 a. m. The bird was seen with Ziess 8 X 30 binoculars from a distance of 10-50 feet. The sky was clear and light conditions were excellent.

HABITAT:

Old apple orchard about 50% clear grassy areas and about 50% overgrown with chokecherry and other shrubs growing to heights of up to 6 feet. Many trees (mainly apple) scattered about the area and growing 10-30 feet in height. A small stream runs through the center of the area.

BEHAVIOR:

Bird was actively feeding on insects in the vegetation, usually on the tops and outer edges of the chokecherry patches, occasionally in apple trees.

DISCRIPTION:

Very bright yellow head, throat, breast, and flanks. Yellow fading to white on undertail coverts and fading to green on crown and nape. Back bright green. Wings and tail blueish gray. Two strong white wingbars. Black line through eye. White tail spots seen in flight. Bill and legs black.

CONCLUSION:

Combination of bright yellow head and underparts with blue-gray wings eliminate all other species except Prothonotary Warbler. Prothonotary Warbler lacks the wingbars and black eyestripe and has white undertail coverts. I have seen Prothonotary and Blue-Winged warbler each twice before.

OBSERVERS:

John Prather, Bill Prather, Others.

Signed:

John Prather

Species: Blue-winged Warbler. Vermivora chrysoptera 52-89-39

Date: May 5, 1989 Time Bird Seen: 7:15pm to 7:20pm

Locality: S. of Lyons D'Arcy residence A

Optical equipment: Swift - Audubon Mark II

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: m Plumage: Breeding

Light conditions: getting dusk - but we still had pretty good light

Distance from bird: 10 - 12 feet

Describe the birds overall behavior: We had been looking for the bird for a half hour or so. John Prather saw the Blue-winged during the day - Four of us were standing near the bushes where it had been seen earlier in the day & all at once it dropped into the low bushes right in front of us on the end of the branches. Flitted around a bit.
Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

A large area in back of the D'Arcy residence. Heavily vegetated - a lot of trees & shrubs - several fruit trees - water runs through the area - irrigation water.

Other observers: John Prather found the bird earlier in the day - Others were Bill Prather, Mary Griest, Virginia Dionigi, John Chrisafis, Ann Means & etc.

Describe in detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. A very bright yellow bird with a very definite black line through the eyes - Dark wings with two white wing bars - The wings looked gray to me. Suppose I didn't see them as bluish gray because of the light. We were able to see the bird well because we were so close to it, but the sun had dropped behind a cloud. About the size of a yellow warbler.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including methods of delivery—i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: No sounds or song were heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them: When it first flew into the bush in front of us - I thought it might be a yellow warbler until I saw the black eye line.

Prior experience with and similar species: Had just seen one in Texas at Audubon Woods

This report was written from notes made during after ✓ observation:
from memory

Signature: Ann Means