

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Blue-winged Warbler ; Vermivora pinus
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 11 June 1991 Time Bird Seen: 6:15 am to 6:45 a.m.

Locality: Castlewood State Park

Castlerock, Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

Number of birds seen: one Sex: male Plumage: breeding

Light conditions: Very good; early morning sun, clear skies

Distance from bird, and how measured: From 25-100 feet; leisurely views of singing bird?

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Male in willows along the creek bottom. The bird sang from a perch in the tip of a willow, about 15 feet high. The bird threw back his head and sang repeatedly.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian; creek bottom in foothills with scattered willow and clear banks in area of mixed scrub oak, grass & occ. Ponderosa Pine

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Duane Nelson

APPENDIX 11 Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Warbler about 5" long; small slender, with thin pointed black bill. Eye dark. Head and undersides deep yellow. Undertail coverts pale yellow. Small black patch runs through eye, extending from lores to auricular. Olive-green back. Blue-gray wings with 2 white wing bars, the second bar is quite wide.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

The song is given from a perch in tip of a willow, about 15' high. Song is a dry, wheezy "beeee bluzz", the first note higher.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Prothonotary has white undertail coverts, no wing bars.
Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville Warblers lack wing bars.
No others have blue-gray wings & yellow head.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen & heard quite a few blue-w. Warblers in Illinois & Wisconsin.

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after observation;
from memory ☐.

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 10 Sedum Ct. Pueblo, CO 81001

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205