

1997-79
ACCEPTED 7-0

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

Vermivora pinus

Location: Ft. Lyons Wildlife Easement; Las Animas; Bent County, Colorado

Date: May 9, 1997

Setting:

We were birding Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement after lunch on May 9. Several of us were present and we all saw the bird (observers included Bob Dickson, David Leatherman, Joe Mammoser, Vic Zerbi, Dave Quesenberry and Brandon Percival). We observed it in full sun. I saw it on three separate occasions between 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. for a total observation time of about 10 minutes. I used B & L Elite 10x42 binoculars. The distance was about 25' - 50'. The bird foraged at medium height, in the foliage, of elms.

Description:

This was a male in breeding plumage. It was a small, slim, active warbler about 5" long. It had a very thin, sharp, pointed black bill. Above it was bluish-gray on the rear crown, nape and back. The wings were darker, a deep blue-gray with two sharp white wingbars. The fore-crown was bright yellow and the face and underparts were a deep bright yellow. The lower belly and undertail were white. There was a small, distinct black line through the eye, from the lores to the auriculars.

Similar Species:

The small size, active habits and small pointed bill indicate a wood warbler. Prothonotary Warbler is larger, bigger-billed; lacks the black eyeline and white wingbars. Orange-crowned, Tennessee and Yellow warblers lack the black eye-line and white wingbars. Most *Dendroica* sp. have streaked flanks. The Pine Warbler is not bright yellow and lacks the black eyeline. *Oporornis* and *Wilsonia* warblers lack wingbars.

Experience with Species:

I have seen Blue-winged Warbler only twice before in Colorado. I have seen many in the east.

This report is prepared directly from notes made during and after observation.

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