

1998-81

ACCEPTED (7-0)

## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

BLUE-WINGED WARBLERVermivora pinusLocation: Lamar Community College/Willow Creek; Lamar, Prowers County, ColoradoDate: May 2, 1998Setting:

This individual was found by Dave Silverman and Dave Johnson mid-morning on May 2nd. It was seen again about 12:55 - 1:05 p.m. by Karleen Schofield, Bob Dickson, Bob Spencer, Ric Olson, David Quesenberry and I. We discovered the bird foraging very low (about 5 feet off the ground) in currants and in larger trees growing along the water at the edge of the grove. It gradually moved higher in the blooming cottonwoods and ended up about 15 feet off the ground. The Willow Creek grove behind Lamar Community College is a narrow riparian corridor of mixed cottonwoods, Russian olives, current and other trees growing over and in water. We got terrific views in full sun at as close as 30 feet. I used B & L Elite 10x42 binoculars.

Description:

This was a small, easy-to-observe warbler. It was probably a female. It foraged acrobatically along the creek side, working close to branches and terminal twiglets and seldom flycatching. It was about 5" long with a very sharp, pointed, tapered black bill. The bird was basically very pure, brilliant yellow (brightest on the fore-crown and underparts) that included the undersides, face and forecrown. The undertail coverts were white. The hind-crown, nape and back were a duller yellowish olive-gray. There was a small black eyeline extending from the bill, through the lores and behind the eye (barely). The wings were bluish-gray with two distinct white wingbars. The tail was short and dark.

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 the Blue-winged Warbler three times before in Colorado (including on May 2, 1997 at the same spot). I have seen numerous Blue-wingeds in the east.

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

Mark Janos  
10 Sedum Ct.  
Pueblo, CO 81001



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

rec'd 5-9-98

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): 5-2-98 Time Bird Seen: 8:25 AM to 8:30 AMLocality: Lamar Community College  
Lamar Prowers Colorado - elevation - 3600'  
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 10-40 Zeiss Binocular

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: AdultLight conditions: GoodDistance from bird, and how measured: 15-20

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Foraged low to the ground in low short shrubs

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Urban wetland with slow moving brook, tall trees, and some dense understory. Primarily the habitat is deciduous

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

Dave Johnson 1920 Greenwood Pueblo CO 81003Many other observers saw this bird subsequent to this observation.



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. Small warbler, slightly smaller than nearby yellow-rumped warblers.

This warbler had bright yellow underparts with greenish yellow back. A thin but very distinct black eyeline extended from back of black eye, through eye & back. Bill was black, slim, slightly downcurved. Wings and Tail were bluish gray. Bird had 2 distinct wing bars on each wing. Under tail coverts were white-yellow, not as bright yellow as rest of underparts. Throat and entire face were also bright yellow except for black eyeline.

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

Before seeing warbler I heard one distinctive bee-bzzzz call but Dave Johnson did not hear this call.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Brewster's Warbler hybrids show whiter and/or much duller yellow underparts. Most other bright yellow colored warblers lack wing bars. Yellow warblers have yellow wing bars and no black eyeline.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have seen many Blue-winged Warblers in my native state of Missouri. I have seen one other Blue-winged in Colorado.

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

Name (print) : David Silverman  
Mailing address: P. O. Box 362 Rye CO 81069  
Signature: David Silverman

Return Form To:

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

# COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

RESULTS: rec'd 5-10-98 ✓

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES: Blue-WINGED Warbler VERMIVORA PINUS  
(COMMON NAME) (SCIENTIFIC NAME)DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: 5/2/98 - 5/3/98NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: one SEX: M PLUMAGE: BREEDINGEXACT LOCATION: 50-75 yards North of main BEAVER DAM Along the canal AT Lamar CollageCOUNTY: Powers NEAREST TOWN: LAMAR ELEVATION: 3200LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 5 min / 30 sec TIMES(S) OF OBSERVATION: 5/2 ⇒ 1:30 pm 5/3 ⇒ 11:00 AMOTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S): Vic ZERBIE, DAVE Quesenberry, George Armbrust, Bob Spencer, Karleen Schofield, Bob Dickson, MARK JAMES

LIGHT CONDITIONS [QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION]:

5/2 - High Afternoon sun. BIRD STAYED in approx one location as observer WALK AROUND BIRD. STARTING with observer to North of BIRD AND WALKING WEST AROUND BIRD in 1/2 circle until BIRD WAS North of observer.

5/3 - Again Afternoon High sun - observer South of BIRD.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: Ziess 10x40DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 2.5 feet / 30 feetWAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED: NO IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? \_\_\_\_\_

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

General - River Riparian

Specific - undercover - leaved out, flowering CURRENT sp. AND GRASS  
widely spaced, young Aspen/poplar TREES (just leafing out), 1 Russian olive AND NUMEROUS dead fall from BEAVER ACTIVITY

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

5/2 - the BIRD WAS foraging for insects (assume) in currents ~~R~~ OLIVE TREE. It had NO APPARENT DIRECTION which MADE MOVEMENT SEEM VERY ERADIC. The Bird would fly from spot to spot, ~~for~~ WALK its way up/down a branch then fly again. It NEVER GOT ABOVE 10' FROM GROUND.

5/3 - BIRD WAS found foraging in CURRENTS (sp). It Also immediately went DOWN to the base of the CURRENTS AND TRIED to SNEAK out BACKSIDE. Then flew ABOUT 6 inches off the ground UNDER A DEAD fall into A DENSE CANAL side thicket AND could NOT be re-found.



DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE, AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS, AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES, OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

HEAD - Black eye; Forecrown, crown THROAT Bright YELLOW; BLACK EYE STRIPE &  
~~BLACK~~ LORES, NAPE - OLIVE GREEN INTO BACK

Body - BREAST, BELLY AND ~~UNDERTAIL COVERTS~~ - YELLOW: UNDERTAIL COVERTS were lighter yellow getting white closer to TAIL.  
BACK - OLIVE GREEN  
Rump - BLUSH GRAY - SAME AS TAIL

TAIL - BLUISH GRAY - NO SPOTS NOTED

Wings - COVERTS & ~~SECONDARIES~~ - BLUISH GRAY THAT WAS LIGHTER THAN TAIL  
TWO DIRT WHITE WING BARS APPROX SAME SIZE AND COLOR  
PRIMARIES - BLACKISH GRAY - NOTICEABLY DARKER THAN TAIL

Soft PARTS - LEGS - BLACK  
EYE - BLACK  
BILL - BLACK Thin & POINTED ALMOST NEEDLE LIKE

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

PROTONOTARY WARBLET → YELLOW of HEAD EXTENDS ONTO NAPE & BACK, NO EYE STRIPE  
YELLOW LORES, NO WING BARS

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

LITTLE to MODERATE exposure to this BIRD

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

BROS f N.A. NEEDED 2<sup>nd</sup> EDITION - SCIENTIFIC NAME

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM <sup>TAPED</sup> NOTES MADE DURING X OR AFTER \_\_\_\_\_  
OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 5/4/98

REPORTING OBSERVER: Ric Olson SIGNATURE: RO2

9450 N. HEATHER DR  
CASTLE ROCK CO 80104 303.741.4600 (WL)

SEND REPORT TO: MARK JANOS, 10 SEDUM COURT, PUEBLO, CO 81001

Spec'd 12-98

CFO-ORC-FILE# 1998-~~1481~~

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results: \_\_\_\_\_

Species:

Blue-winged Warbler

Vermivora pinus

Dates: 5/2/98

Number of birds seen: one

Sex: male

Plumage: alternate

Locality: Lamar Community College woods

Elevation: about 4000 feet I think

Nearest town: Lamar

County: Prowers

Time observed: not noted

Duration of observation: 2 and a half minutes

Other observers with you: Ric Olson, Bob Spencer, others I can't recall

Other observers who saw the bird independently:

Light conditions: clear skies with bright sunshine

Optical equipment: Leica 10x42 Ultras

Distance from bird: 15 feet

Describe the bird's behavior: stayed low while foraging - usually 5 feet to 10 feet off of the ground. Sometimes spread tail.

Describe the bird (what you actually saw):

wings: 2 rough edged white wing bars, dark gray wings same color as tail and darker than back

back: greenish

head: crown yellow. Eyeline through eye to the bill, eyes black

underparts: throat, breast, belly all rich yellow. undertail coverts white.

slight blackish streaks on lower flanks.

tail: forked. top of tail same dark gray as wings. undertail white with dark borders

Describe the bird's song and call if heard: not noted

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: swampy riparian/weedy area next to a small creek

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

Prothonotary Warbler: eliminated by wing bars and eyeline

Brewster's Warbler: eliminated by yellow belly combined with white wingbars

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: Only about 3 or 4 Blue-winged Warblers and Prothonotary Warblers (although a Prothonotary Warbler stayed near my house for over two weeks once). No Brewster's Warblers

List books if they helped in your identification: Birds of North America (NGS)

This report was written from notes taken during x, or after observation or from memory. I used a microcassette recorder to record my

observations while I was observing the bird. I timed the playback to get the time of observation listed above. I transcribed the tape to written notes within a day or two of observation and wrote this from the written notes on 10/25/98.

Reporting observer:  
David W. Quesenberry

DWQ

Signature: David W. Quisenberry  
Address:  
6254 S. Elmira Cir  
Englewood, CO 80111

Mail to: Mark Janos, 10 Sedum Court, Pueblo, CO 81001.