

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

*Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!*

CFO-RC FILE X: **2001-122**

### RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name): **BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** (Scientific Name) **Vermivora pinus**

Date(s) of occurrence: **April 22, 2001**

Number of birds seen: **One**

Sex: **Male**

Plumage: **Adult**

Exact Location: **Fort Lyons State Wildlife Area**

County: **Bent**

Nearest town: **Fort Lyons**

Elevation:

Length of observation: **Roughly four minutes (mostly through video)**

Time(s) of observation: **Morning**

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **Mark Janos, Brandon Percival, Tony Leukering**

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): **I am not aware of any**

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: **Good. Bird was mainly toward the northwest with sun to east.**

Optical equipment used: **7X42 Zeiss Bins**

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): **Varied, closest was approximately 50 feet.**

Was bird(s) photographed? **Yes, video**

If so, have you submitted photos? **Yes, still from video and video itself.**

Who took the photographs? **Myself**

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: **Woodland**

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **Mostly foraged in tops of trees.**

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the 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 important 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 field notes):

**Tony and I were notified of the presence of a male Blue-winged Warbler at Fort Lyons SWA by Mark Janos and Brandon Percival. Mark and Brandon met us at the general location where they had spotted the bird and within minutes, we were able to refind the male Blue-winged Warbler. The bird was actively feeding near the top of large cottonwoods on the north-central portion of the wooded section of the SWA ("Tornado Grove"). The bird was obviously a wood warbler in being small, short-tailed, thin-billed, and colorful. Typical Vermivora morphology was noticed in possessing a very thin, attenuated bill and short tail. Overall coloration was a bright yellow, which dominated the crown, face, throat, breast, and upper vent. There was a distinct black eyeline that extended from the base of the bill posteriorly through the eye terminating at the auriculars. This eyeline was deepest at the lores and narrowed toward the rear of the head. The hind-neck and mantle were a dull greenish-olive. The wings were bluish-gray and contained two large, white, wingbars along the greater and median coverts. The vent was a clean white and the tail was bluish-gray. Legs appeared black. I was able to capture a few seconds of video and obtained a diagnostic still of the underside of the bird from that video.**



Describe bird's call or song: **None heard**

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **The combination of yellow crown, throat, neck, breast, and flanks, with contrasting greenish nape, blue-gray wings with white wingbars, and white vent eliminate all other warblers.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **Have observed numerous other birds in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas.**

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **None**

This report is from notes made during or after **XX** observation or later from memory

Date of written report: **1/6/02**

Reporting observer: **Larry Semo**

Signature:



Reporting Observer's Address: **9054 Dover Street**

City: **Westminster**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80021**

Send report to:  
Colorado Birds Record Committee  
c/o Tony Leukering  
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

2001-122

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-ORC FILE # \_\_\_\_\_

NEW STATE RECORD \_\_\_\_\_ UNUSUAL RECORD X

**Species:** Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)

**Date:** 22 April 2001      **Number seen:** one      **Sex:** male      **Plumage:** Alternate

**Locality:** Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement      **Elevation:** about 3870'

**Nearest town:** Ft. Lyon      **County:** Bent

**Time observed:** mid-morning

**Duration of observation:** off and on for about 4 minutes

**Description:** Larry and I arrived at Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement to find Mark Janos' car in the parking area, so we knew that Mark and Brandon were there. I called Brandon on the radio and Mark responded that we ought to get our butts to the 'Tornado Grove' as the two of them had a large number of 'good' birds, including a male Blue-winged Warbler (BWVA). Larry and I drove into the Tornado Grove and hurried to where they were on the east side of the Grove. Shortly after we got there, Brandon refound the BWVA and Larry and I got to see it. Larry spent a bit of time trying to videotape it, as I looked for the other goodies.

The BWVA was a smallish warbler that was mostly yellow below, greenish above, and with grayish wings. There were two broad, white wingbars formed by white tips to the median and greater secondary coverts. The forehead was yellow, but the rest of the crown was greenish. There were thin, black eyelines that were wider in front of the eyes than behind. These eyelines ended abruptly shortly after passing through the eyes, which were dark. There were no other markings on the head (e.g., eye rings and malar stripes). The bill was dark. The white undertail coverts were the only non-yellow part of the ventral side. I did not see the tail well, but it was darker than the undertail coverts and had paler tail spots formed by pale inner webs to the outer rectrices.

Similar species eliminated by description: Though there are numerous mostly-yellow warblers in North America, none particularly resemble BWVA. The combination of head and wing patterns rules out all but the most BWVA-like hybrids between this species and Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA). However, those hybrids are eliminated, as the bird showed none of the usual features indicating introgression of GWWA genes: white on belly or breast, yellow in the wings, and more extensive black on the head.

**Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):** I did not hear this bird, though it did sing a few times, or so said Brandon and Mark.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species?** I have seen ~100 BWVAs and have seen 10s to 1000s of virtually all species that could be confused for one.

**Light conditions:** sun variously to my right and behind me

**Optical equipment used:** Swarovski 8.5x42

**Distance, and how estimated:** estimated closest distance at ~10 meters

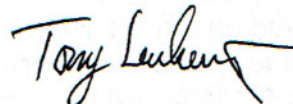
**Other observers who saw the bird with you:** Brandon Percival, Mark Janos, Larry Semo

**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** Doug Faulkner, Andrew Spencer, at least

**If photographed, type of equipment and film:** I did not photograph; Larry videotaped it

**List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:**

**a) at time of observation:** none **b) after observation:** none

**Reporting observer:** Tony Leukering **Signature:** 

**Address:** Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80601

**Date report was written:** 9 December 2001 from brief notes I wrote the evening of the sighting