

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: *2001-166*

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name): *Blue-winged Warbler*

(Scientific Name) *Vermivora pinus*

Date(s) of occurrence: *May 20, 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 one minute*

Time(s) of observation: *Morning*

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: *Pearl Sandstrom-Smith and others from the Pueblo CFO Convention field trip.*

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 west with sun to east.*

Optical equipment used: *7X42 Zeiss Bins*

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): *Varied, closest was approximately 70 feet.*

Was bird(s) photographed? *No*

If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

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):

While leading a CFO Convention field trip to southeastern Colorado, I observed a male Blue-winged Warbler in the north-central wooded portion of Fort Lyons SWA. Though I had previously observed a male Blue-winged at roughly the same location a month prior (documentation submitted), the extensive period following that prior observation and the lack of other observations of a male Blue-winged Warbler at that locale during the interim period (despite numerous visits by other birders), suggests the two occurrences to be of different individuals. The warbler actively foraged mid-level in the cottonwoods and flitted around nervously.

The bird was obviously a warbler, being small, brightly colored, and thin-billed. The wings were short and tail. Though only observed a few times over the course of a minute, the following traits were observed:

Bill – thin, pointed and black

Head – Mostly bright yellow except for a distinct black eyeline extending from the base of the bill posteriorly through the black eye and terminating in the auricular region.

Underparts – The side-neck, throat, breast, flanks, and belly were bright yellow. The vent was a clean white.

Upperparts – The nape and mantle were a greenish-olive. The wings appeared slate-gray/bluish and contained two large, white wing stripes along the greater and median coverts.

Tail – Slate-gray/bluish

Legs - Black

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

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

The combination of yellow body plumage, bluish/gray wings with two white wingbars, white vent, and bluish/gray tail is most closely assimilated with that of Pine Warbler. Pine Warbler was eliminated by the less distinct black eyeline, duller greenish-yellow body plumage, possessing indistinct grayish streaking through the breast and flanks, and white belly indicative of that species. Prothonotary Warbler, as Blue-winged, is dressed with a bright yellow head, throat, breast, and belly, olive-green mantle, bluish/gray wings and tail, and white vent. However Prothonotary's differ in having a much longer bill, lack the distinct black eyeline, and white wing bars typical of Blue-winged.

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

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: **7/6/01**

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