

52-92-17

A

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

Dendroica dominicaLocation: Mineral Palace Park; Pueblo; Pueblo County, ColoradoDate: June 11, 1992

This bird was singing in a Pueblo park 3 miles east-northeast of City Park where the May bird was singing. This may or may not be the same bird. I think that it is likely a different bird.

Setting:

I heard a singing Yellow-throated Warbler singing from the treetops in Mineral Palace Park while I was taking a break at work. The park borders our break area. I could hear the song from several hundred yards away and recognized it immediately as a Yellow-throated Warbler. I had studied and heard the song of the May Yellow-throated Warbler hundreds of times just one month previously. I walked into the park and observed the bird with my naked eye. I did not have binoculars. I found the bird within minutes and saw it fly from tree crown to tree crown. It foraged and sang only in large sycamores. I observed it rather poorly until it finally stayed in one tree for a minute. As a last resort I "pished" and the bird flew straight down at me. With two short flights it stopped about 20 feet over my head and sang! I had "pished" at the City Park bird in May but it had never responded. Even though I had no binoculars, I could plainly observe the bird's appearance at close range, even down to the color of the lores and superciliary--white (race *albifrons*).

Description:

This bird also stayed high in the crowns of sycamores. It only approached more closely when I "pished". It was a small warbler, about 5" and overall black, grey, white and yellow. Its upperparts looked dark grey but I could not see if it was streaked or not above. It had two plain white wingbars. It had a black facepatch with a white border above (superciliary and lores) and behind (nape patch). The undersides were white with black flank streaking. The chin, throat and upper breast was a brilliant and deep yellow. This bird seemed somewhat more active than the May bird. However it was basically rather sluggish for a warbler and gleaned in the foliage.

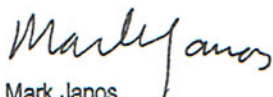
Similar Species:

Small size, slender pointed bill, white wingbars and gleaning tree-top habits identify the bird as a warbler. Blackburnian has yellow or orange face, streaked back yellower undersides. Cape May lacks black face patch, white superciliary, clear yellow throat. Magnolia has tailspots, yellow belly, lacks white nape spot. Townsend's lacks white superciliary, white nape spot has black streaked breast. Grace's is very similar but has black streaks on back, lacks black face patch, lacks white nape spot and has yellow lores and superciliary. I compared the song that this bird delivered (which I taped) with the record and it matches that of the Yellow-throated Warbler.

Experience with Species:

I have seen all similar warblers with which this bird might be confused. I have seen Grace's Warbler in Colorado and elsewhere on several occasions, including in the spring of 1991. I have seen one previous Yellow-throated Warbler, in south Texas in January, 1990.

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



Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001