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## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

## YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

Dendroica dominicaLocation: City Park; Pueblo; Pueblo County, ColoradoDate: May 10, 13, 15, 17, 1992

This bird was discovered by Van Truan. It was seen by many other Colorado birders, including Duane Nelson and Joe Himmel.

Setting:

I received a call from Brandon Percival on May 9, 1992 to tell me that Van Truan had found a Yellow-throated Warbler in City Park, Pueblo Colorado. I went to the park that evening and felt that I caught a glimpse of the bird high in the trees but an blustery, evening rain storm made birding conditions terrible. On May 10 I arrived at the park at 6:15 a.m. and found the bird shortly thereafter. I observed it from 6:25-6:50 a.m. I watched the bird with 10X42 binoculars. I was able to find the bird on subsequent days (listed above) by listening for its loud, persistent, ringing song. The song was delivered from high in the sycamores and, later in the week, pines.

Description:

It stayed very high in the crowns on the trees in City Park. It preferred sycamores, but rarely ventured lower in locust trees or in the crowns of long-needle pines. It was fairly slow-moving for a warbler. It sometimes reminded me of a vireo in actions. It normally fed by gleaning along small branches toward the periphery of the crown. It sometimes ventured deeper into the foliage of the tree or crept along vertical trunks and bark-gleaning like a Black-and-White Warbler. It usually delivered its song as it fed. However I did observe it sing its song from a stationary singing perch near the top of a large sycamore on May 10 and 13. It sang its song by tipping its head back and raising its bill nearly vertically and then delivering the very loud penetrating song upward. I could watch its throat move as it sang its song. It sang almost like clockwork, delivering 4-5 songs/minute for minutes on end. I observed the bird from 40-150 feet distance. The following description is taken from notes I made on May 10, 1992, but could apply as well for the other days of observation.

It was a rather small warbler, about 5" long. It seemed long-billed compared to most warblers. This long- or larger-billed look was accentuated when it sang, parting its mandibles and pointed the bill upward. Though large, the bill was slender, dark and pointed. It was a gray, black and white bird with a brilliant yellow chin, throat and upper breast. It was white underneath with black streaks on the flanks. The yellow on the chin and throat was very deep, almost orangish and contrasted sharply with the otherwise white belly and underparts. The back, nape and crown were unstreaked dark grey. The wings and tail were darker, even blackish. The forecrown was black. The bird had two strong, distinct white wingbars. There was a black face patch separated from the dark crown by a completely white superciliary above (race *albiloris*) and an irregular white mark at the rear, including a partial white nape. There was a distinct narrow arc of white beneath each eye.

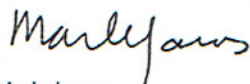
Similar Species:

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.



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