

ACCEPTED

CFO-RC FILE X: **2002-24**

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Scientific Name) *Sphyrapicus varius*

Date(s) of occurrence: March 2, 2002

Number of birds seen: one Sex: female Plumage: immature

Exact location: by the tennis courts in City Park, Pueblo

County: Pueblo Nearest town: Pueblo Elevation: 4600 feet ?

Length of observation: 15 minutes Time(s) of observation: 11:45 to 12:00

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Brandon Percival, Dave Silverman

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): mob

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: sunny,

wind SSW at 10 to 15 MPH, bird at various angles in the trees.

Optical equipment used: Ziess 10x40

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 15 to 100 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: A city park with mixed deciduous and pine trees with a manicured grass under story.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): the bird was observed foraging on four different pine trees. It then flew off toward the zoo.

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): The bird was a medium sized woodpecker molting from juvenal plumage to adult plumage. The bill was dark and a bit shorter than head length. The crown was developing red and surrounded by a dark brownish border. There was a tan-white supercillium that started above the eye and fizzled out toward the nape. There was a dark brownish eye stripe that connected with the dark border around the red crown between the eyes. Posterior, the eye stripe made a shape turn down the neck and faded into the shoulder and flanks. Below the eye stripe was a tan-white stripe that followed the eye stripe posterior, turned down the neck and faded into the breast. This stripe extended through the lores and over the base of the bill and connected with the same stripe from the other side. There was a dark malar stripe that followed the pattern of the above two stripes and blended into the breast of the same color. The throat was entirely off white. The belly was a pale lemon yellow. The flanks were barred grayish-brown. The back and rump were a barred tan-brown. The wings were very dark, almost black with a large white patch. The tips of the primaries were tipped light. The color and pattern of the tail and legs were not noted.

Describe bird's call or song: none

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Red Naped Sapsucker was eliminate by; 1) retention of juvenal plumage late into winter, 2) All white throat

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I studied a few immature YB Sapsuckers over the years in Co.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): Sibley guide to Birds

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

Date of written report: March 4, 2002

Reporting observer: Signature: Ric Olson

Reporting Observer's Address: 9450 N. Heather Dr. Castle Rock 303-790-7753