

(R-10 Oct 01)

Colorado Record No: 2001-89 ACCEPTED
Colorado Rare Bird Report Documentation Form

Common Name: Chestnut-sided Warbler Scientific Name: *Dendroica pensylvanica*

Numbers Seen: One

Distance: 30-60 feet

Light conditions: Mostly Cloudy

Optical Equipment: Swarovski 8X32.

Sex and Age: Adult male Light Conditions: Backlit against gray skies or set against the dark branches of the spruce trees. Sunny other days.

Location: In California Gulch, about 30 miles west of La Garita.

County: Saguache County

Date of Observation: June 25, 2001, June 29, 2001, June 30, 2001

Description of the Bird(s): The bird was first identified and located by its song. It was noon lunchtime and I heard a song of a warbler that was not typical of the Colorado mountains. Upon walking a short distance, I was amazed to see a male Chestnut-sided Warbler singing on territory.

The bird was estimated to be about 4 ½ to 5 inches in length. It was comparable in size to the male Yellow-rumped Warbler, which it aggressively attacked and chased away from a 2 acre patch of timber. It was warbler like and was primarily singing on territory, occasionally flying to the next spruce. It fed occasionally as well. It stayed in the upper parts of the spruce 30 to 60 feet up and sang often.

The bird was overall brown on the upper parts and white on the underparts. It was a male based on the full yellow crown and the rich distinct and continuous chestnut sides.

Crown of the bird was a brilliant yellow starting from the brow to the back of the head. There was a dark eye line that passed thru a dark eye, and ended at the nape, connecting with the dark brown of the nape. Cheek was white and bordered to the bottom by a dark moustachial stripe that connected to rich and distinct chestnut brown streaks down each side of the bird. Bill was narrow and slightly decurved and dark colored. Throat, breast, and undertail was white. Back was dark brown and somewhat mottled with black. Wings were brown with 2 light wingbars. Tail was dark colored with the outer tail retrices appearing slight lighter in color than the central tail feathers.

Habitat: Engelmann Spruce and Aspen trees, within 100 feet of willow-lined stream

Behavior: Flying from branch to branch. Feeding. Singing. Chasing away a male Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Vocalizations: A series of about 7 stacatto notes all of the same pitch, and getting slightly louder toward the end of the series.

Differentiation from Similar Species. The Golden-crowned Kinglet is a smaller and lacks the chestnut-colored sides. No other warbler has the combination of a yellow crown and chestnut sides.

Previous Experience with this Species: I have seen this species numerous times in Texas, Eastern Colorado, Minnesota, Eastern North Dakota, Manitoba, New Hampshire, Canada and in Massachusetts.

Others who observed this species: Seth Walker, Watershed Assistant

Significance (How rare is this for the area, optional): This is likely the 1st possible breeding record for the San Juan mountains.

Was the bird Photographed? Yes, a 30 second video tape that show bird singing in a snag tree (enclosed).

Report was made 1 day later from notes taken on site.

Observer and Signature: *John Rawinski* Date: July 6, 2001
10/02/01

Send to: Tony Leukering, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601