

2001-66

ACCEPTED

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING

2001-019

6 - 8 Aug 01

Species: Black-throated Blue Warbler

Date(s): July 14, 20001

Time seen: 10 a.m.

Locality: Bar NI Ranch south side of Whiskey Creek, about one mile west of upper switchback on old county road. Las Animas County, Colorado.

Latilong: 37104

Optical equipment: Bausch and Lomb Elite 8x42 binoculars

Number of birds seen: one

Sex:

Male

Plumage: Alternate

Light conditions: OK

Distance from bird: 35 feet

Weather at time of observation: sunny

Prior weather & number of days since change: Thunderstorm the prior evening.

Describe habitat: mixed forest, mainly aspen but with spruce/fir of a fairly low stature (canopy about 10 meters max). with a noisy stream, Whiskey Creek, running through

Describe behavior: Sang for about an hour as we listened and searched. Observed 10-20 feet above ground.

Bird's call or song: We first located the bird by hearing its song from the road, from a considerable distance (100 meters or more). All three observers are familiar with the song of this species and other "throated" warblers (only Black-throated Gray really likely in this vicinity, though habitat is wrong.) Sounded like the "classic" Black-throated Blue song: "se-se-see-see-see", with slurred buzzy or burry notes. All observers unanimously agreed that it was a Black-throated Blue, but we tracked it down to make sure (not an easy task in this terrain).

Field marks observed: size, color, pattern, shape, bill, etc.: Singing male bird seen by DM on steep slope of creek. White underparts (belly); black throat, flanks, and sides of face; slate blue back and wings; very distinct white spot at base of primaries. Seen well for about 1 minute at a distance of about; glimpsed poorly for about another 2 minutes.;

Similar species: by sound, Black-throated Green (see above); by plumage, BTB essentially unmistakable

Prior experience: DM has seen this species numerous times throughout a birding career spanning close to 30 years. H&U had just returned from working on NY Breeding bird Atlas, where they heard and saw several BTBs.

Description from: notes provided by DM, supplemented by a few from HEK.

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4 August 2001

  
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