

R-7 Nov 01

Colorado Record No: 2001-99
Colorado Rare Bird Report Documentation Form

ACCEPTED

Common Name: BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER *Dendroica caerulescens*

Numbers Seen: One

Distance: 15 to 40 feet

Light conditions: Sunny, clear. Winds 0 to 5mph. I was south of the bird. Sunlight from west.

Optical Equipment: Swarovski 8X30.

Sex and Age: Adult, Male, (Northern race)

Location: At the Alamosa Golf Course. Just south of the driving range. In Russian Olive trees lining a small frogpond. Bird was feeding on insects in the Olive trees.

County: Alamosa Date(s) and Time of Observation: October 14, 2001, 2:30 to 4:00 pm; October 15, 2001, 0900 to 1200 (Lisa only).

Description of the Bird(s): I spotted the bird around 2:30 in the afternoon. I saw the bird lazily feeding, as it flitted at eye level in some Russian Olive trees near a small pond. It was about the size of the nearby Yellow-rumped Warblers, about 5 to 5 1/2 inches in length. The first feature I noticed was the white rhomboidal wing patch on a black wing. No other warbler has this distinctive feature. Bird was dark blue on the upper parts and white on the underparts. Face, bill and throat were black. The black throat broke abruptly to white at the breast, which continued all the way down the belly and undertail. Black throat connected to a thin black streak down the side and ended at the flanks. Bill was slightly decurved and thin, characteristic of warbler family. Crown, nape, back were dark blue. Tail was dark bluish gray. Leading edge of shoulder on folded wing showed white edge.

Habitat: Russian olives next to a small wetland.

Behavior: Feeding and flying. Staying no higher than 15 feet off the ground in thick shrubs and trees.

Vocalizations: None

Differentiation from Similar Species. No other warblers have this combination of bluish mantle, black throat, and white wing patch. Black throated Gray warbler lacks bluish gray color and distinct white wing patch. Black throated green lacks blue back and white wing patch.

Previous Experience with this Species: Have seen this species in Vermont (9/01), Texas (4/00), Massachusetts (9/74, 5/00).

Others who observed this species: Lisa Rawinski, Jerry Poe, John Stump, Lisa Clements, Virginia Simmons.

Significance (How rare is this for the area, optional) There are no records for this species in the San Luis Valley.

Was the bird Photographed? Lisa took a photo with digital camera. Photo attached.

Report was made 3 days after observation

Observer and Signature: John J Rawinski Date: October 17, 2001



Photo of male Black-throated Blue Warbler, Alamosa Golf Course, October 15, 2001, 0900 to 1200, by Lisa J. Rawinski