

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(this is a two page report-click at the bottom for page 2)

rec'd 5/16/02

CBRC FILE #: 2002-49

RESULTS: (A)

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific names): Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*

Date(s) of Observation: May 4th 2002

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♀ Female Plumage: spring, adult female

Exact location: seen in vacant lot on south eastern edge of Hooper Colorado

County: Alamosa Nearest town: seen in Hooper, Colo. near Mosca Co. Elevation: 7,558'

Length of observation: 5 minutes? then seen again for approx 3 minutes Time(s) of observation: around 6:30 a.m.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Parents, and brothers Josiah, Micah, Daniel, Joshua and my sister Patience.

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): N/A don't know.

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observer(s) position): good lighting. light shown from behind the observers on to the bird, it was a clear morning and light conditions

Optical equipment used: 10X50 & 8X24 Eagle Optics Ranger binoculars by Celestron.

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): seen mostly between approx 7-13' feet away but, also seen from 50 feet away

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? NA If so, are you submitting photos? NA

Who took the photograph(s)? N/A no camera.

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: seen foraging low to midway in willow trees, which were grouped closely with Elms, and Narrowleaf cottonwood in a brushy lot with weeds grass, rabbit brush and lilac present.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits:

observed while hopping between branches and gleaning insects from twigs and leaves, no tail flicking or calls were observed.

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DESCRIPTION -- This is the **most important** part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings - folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes.

copy of
field sketch
enclosed.

It was immediately evident the the bird at hand was a Warbler, by its behavior of quickly moving through the trees searching for insects. We identified the Warbler as a ♀ Black-throated Blue by the following plumage and structural details observed: The Warblers build was overall stocky with a flattish crown, short neck, short tail, and primary projection. I was also about the size of a Yellow-rumped Warbler. The crown was olive contrasting with a light buffy superciliary stripe, and light lores, the auriculars were, darker dusky brown/olive contrasting with a white partial eye ring, and buffy malar, The bill was short and thick for a warbler, and colored black as were the "legs" and toes. the throat was buffy with a dark lateral throat stripe. the underparts showed a yellowish cast, being more olive on the sides, and flanks, which contrasted sharply with the white undertail coverts. the nape back and coverts were olive, and the secondaries, tertials, and primaries were darker with a hint of blue, they contrasted sharply with the most distinctive field mark a bright white patch, at the base of the primaries, standing out from a distance.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:

None heard.

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration.

Orange-crowned Warbler, lacks white undertail coverts, and white patch on primaries, it also has a sharp pointed bill, and darker underparts. Tennessee Warbler is much smaller, has small thin bill, ♀♀ have faint wingbars and all plumages lack white patch at base of primaries. most other similar warblers show wingbars. all Oporornis Warblers have pink "legs" and feet, as show pink on bill. The only other warbler showing a distinct white patch at base of primaries, is olive, in a different family, shows very different plumage. all Vireos lack that white primary patch and differ in bill structure.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I'm familiar with warblers found here, but the ♀ Black-throated Blue was new to me.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): We took a quick look in the SIBLEY guide to birds which confirmed the rarity of the species for this area. And I double checked in the Peterson guide to Warblers.

This report is from notes made from (check one) ☐ noted made during observation ☒ noted made after observation ☐ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: 10:30 a.m May 12th 2002, (I wish I could have got this form sooner!)

Reporting observer: Kalen Malueg.

Signature: Kalen Malueg.

Address:

birdbrains
ATTN: Kalen Malueg
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Hooper, Colorado. (81136)

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee, Tony Leukering, PO Box 660, Brighton, CO 80601.

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