

1998-143

ACCEPTED (7-0)

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

CANADA WARBLER

Wilsonia canadensis

Location: Two Buttes Reservoir, north of Springfield; Baca County, Colorado

Date: September 5, 1998 (from 4th through 7th)

Setting:

Brandon Percival found this bird on the afternoon of the 4th and it was also seen on the 7th. It was searched for but not seen by others. The bird was seen in an area of dense trees (especially Russian olive and willow) and undergrowth on the north side of the drainage below Two Buttes Reservoir dam. The bird foraged most often in the heaviest growth along a seep under the road. It foraged from 2-15 high in the trees. It stayed to the most dense tangles and underbrush, but would occasionally work its way up into more open areas and could be very tame and easily seen, as well as very concealed and secretive. The bird "pished up" well for me – very interested and curious about the squeaking sound I made. I watched it for about 20 minutes at distances of 15-35 feet with my B & L 10x40 Elite binoculars. It was very active, "curious", flitting, flycatching, gleaning – quite reminiscent in size, shape and behavior to a Wilson's Warbler (for example in wing-drooped like a Wilson's). It gave two kinds of chips: a loud, buzzy, rough chip, similar to Wilson's Warbler, and a thin lispy chip.

Description:

The bird was small, about 4 1/2" long, with a long, thin tail. It was a male. The upperparts were evenly steel blue-gray. It lacked wingbars. The flight feathers of the folded wing were slightly browner than the back. The crown and face were plain, unmarked slate bluish-gray, not blackish. The underparts were deep yellow. The undertail coverts were pure white. There was a complete, even "necklace" of thin, dark grayish-black streaks – very well marked and distinctive. There was a big, noticeable, complete white eyering and a much less obvious yellow mark between the bill and the upper edge of the eye, above the dark lores.

Similar Species:

The small size, active habits and small sharp bill indicate a warbler. The combination of dark bluish-gray above, yellow below and blackish necklace rule out other species. Magnolia Warbler has an eyeline and wingbars. Hooded Warbler has yellow face. Kentucky Warbler lacks the necklace.

Experience with Species:

I have seen Canada Warbler before, as recently as the summer of 1997 in Michigan

This report was prepared from notes made during observation.



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