

## VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

Accepted 12/9/73

1. Species: BAY-BREASTED WARBLER | Dendroica castanea 2. Number: 1  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: In my yard Stanley Heights, Estes Park, Colo.
4. Date(s): May 20, 1973 5. Time bird seen: 9:30 A.m. to for 15 minutes
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):  
I was 7 feet from this bird so observation was easier than most. I was in a pup tent which I frequently use as a blind for doing bird photography, when this bird appeared. I was working by remote control so my camera and tripod were outside the tent a few feet (I use an air release frequently. Unfortunately my camera was focused on a feeder in another direction and I could not photograph it. An attempt would have meant going outside the tent to readjust the camera, thereby spooking the warbler, so all I could do was to observe and take notes and hope it would find its way to my ground feeder, but it did not. At this distance I had no trouble observing the deep chestnut <sup>throat</sup> and white breast, the white spot on the neck was very pronounced. The crown a chestnut top. Its different poses also revealed the two white wing bars, and tail patches
7. Description of voice, if heard: None
8. Description of behavior: During this 15 minutes it fed quietly on the ground staying within a radius of the same 3 feet I first saw it. and did not appear particularly nervous.
9. Habitat--general:  
specific: was feeding on the ground among ponderosa pines
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:  
I felt its features were so pronounced, this this description could fit no other bird.
11. Distance (how measured?): from experience as I frequently photograph birds at this distance.
12. Optical equipment: needed none at this distance.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):  
The morning sun was directly on this bird so that it was well illuminated.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: none
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare? I hadn't previously heard of such a bird in this area and I new it was certainly rare in my location.
16. Other observers: None
17. Did others agree with your identification?
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: None
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: BAILEY: BIRDS OF COLORADO  
PETERSONS FIELD GUIDE FOR WESTERN BIRDS
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

Signature

Date Prepared: July 4-73Street Address: 812 Panorama Circle Stanley Hgts.City and State: Estes Park, Colorado

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)

# Matthews Studio

SLIDES - FILM - FLASHBULBS  
Box 1849 Estes Park, Colo. 80517

July 4-73

Mr. Jack Reddall, Chairman  
CFO Official Records  
4450 South Alton Street  
Englewood, Colorado 80110

Dear Sir:

Evidently Allegra Collister misunderstood me on the phone when I reported several sightings. I reported an Eastern Kingbird, and a Rufous Sided Towhee, and the Warbler, stating that I did get pictures of the first two but not the Bay breasted Warbler. I would have given anything to have phtographed it, and felt so utterly helpless in that situation. I hoped it would linger a day or so and I would have another chance to try for it, but I did not observe it again.

Hope you find this of help.

Sincerely,

*Law Matthews*