

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. SPECIES: Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*)
2. NUMBER: Two - female & male
3. LOCATION: Adjacent to Westcreek - Turkey Rock Ranch Estates road off Rt. 67
btwn Woodland Park and Deckers.
4. DATE OF SIGHTING: 24 June 78
5. TIME OF OBSERVATION: 10:00 to 10:10 AM
6. DESCRIPTION: First noticed male by distinctive head & breast pattern. Bird was 4½-5" with warbler bill and shape. Dark area around eyes was very dark brown to black. Light reddish-brown on throat, chest, sides and crown. Two strong white wing bars. White patch at each side of neck was very noticeable. Streaking on back evident. The belly & underside were very light gray.
 Elinor Wills was first to identify it as a B-breasted
 Female in company with male: White stripe just above eye with dark line thru eye. Very dull brown crown. 2 white wing bars. Breast & sides slightly darker than light chest & underparts.
7. VOICE: male called twice with a thin, weak call.
8. BEHAVIOR: Not very active; male more so than female. Saw male take and eat a caterpillar. Both sat stationary on leafless twigs for a minute or two at a time. Female was observed holding apparent nesting material in bill for about 3 minutes, but did not seem interested in a specific spot. She was stationary while observed with nesting material. At end of observation both flew into nearby spruce in mutual pursuit. Birds apparently stayed in general area of spruce.
9. HABITAT: Woods of mixed mature spruce, pine & aspen with understory of brush.
 running water near.
10. SIMILAR SPECIES: Not Blackpoll or Chestnut-sided Warblers due to head/breast plumage.
11. DISTANCE OF OBSERVATION: 20' judged by eye.
12. OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: Swift 7x50 this observer, Nikon 7x35 by Bill Hurd, binoculars of unknown type by others.
13. LIGHT CONDITIONS: Sky clear & sunny w/ occasional clouds. Birds seen in broken forest sunlight generally front lighted. Seen in full sun MX and in shadow.
14. SPECIES EXPERIENCE: none by this observer, other observers familiar with bird.
15. WHY THO'T TO BE RARE/UNUSUAL: General knowledge of distribution. Consultation with Lynn Grace on her sighting of same species recently in Colo Spgs (report submitted)
16. OTHER OBSERVERS AGREE ON SIGHTING: Yes - a group identification.
17. OTHER OBSERVERS: Elinor Wills, Roberta/Vincent Winn, Bill Hurd, Nancy Greenleaf
18. BOOKS USED: Birds of N America, Peterson's - pattern of plumage, description of call.
19. PHOTOGRAPHS: none taken
20. REMARKS: This was definately a pair of this species and because of the fact the female was holding apparent nesting material, perhaps the pair is considering the area for nesting. Roberta Winn (Turkey Rock Ranch Estates, Rt #2, Box 296, Sedalia, Colorado 80135) will be checking area to see if pair remains & if it is nesting.

Charles L. Campbell 25 June 78
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