

APPENDIX II

52-88-39

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Blackburnian Warbler ; dendroica fusca
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 9-02-88 Time Bird Seen: 4:00 to 4:05

Locality: Arkansas River Bridge, 1 mile south of Holly,
Prowers Co., Colorado, Lat:long #21
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Zeiss 8x30 and Bushnell 7x50 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male Plumage: imm. male?

Light conditions: Partly cloudy, good afternoon light

Distance from bird, and how measured: 15 feet, estimate

Describe the bird's overall behavior:
Feeding in typical warbler fashion in tree.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
Bird seen in 30' tall cottonwood right next to bridge, south side of Arkansas River.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
Diane Seltman

Blackburnian Warbler
9-02-88 Seltman

APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

The warbler had a distinctive orange coloration to the non-black areas on face, head, and breast. Back and wings dark except for white wingbars. The top wing bar was broader and whiter than the bottom. Heavy streaks on sides below wings. Angular cheek patch very distinctive. We did not notice white in tail - the bird may have been a female. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

No other 'dendroica' warbler would have the orange coloration on face and throat that this bird possessed. Female

Townsend's Warbler is similar but has "necklace" streaks and more yellowish-green plumage.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I am familiar with all but 3 of the North American 'dendroica' warblers.

I have seen Blackburnian in western Kansas only once before.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after X observation; from memory _____.

Name (print) : Scott & Diane Seltman

Mailing address: RR1 Box 36 Nekoma, KS 67559

Signature: Scott Seltman

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205