

CFO Rare Bird Form

52-92-34

A

- New State Record ----------
- x - Rare bird in CO ----------
Blackburnian Warbler
(Species)-----
Dendroica fusca
(Scientific name)

Date(s):

September 26, 1992, 9:30-9:33 AM, 75 °F, Wind W 5-10 MPH.

Locality:Lake Henry on northwest in the grove of cottonwoods, near
Ordway, Crowley County Colorado.

(Nearest town, county and state)

Optical equipment:

7x35 Bushell Binoculars.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:
Not Photographed.-----
Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male Plumage: immature-----
Light Conditions:

Excellant, clear, and sunny.

Distance from bird and how measured:I was standing 20 feet away from the tree the bird was. The
warbler was observed 10-15 feet above the ground.-----
Describe the bird's overall behavior:I spotted a warbler fly from trees from the north and land
in a tree in front of me. The bird seemed smaller than the
20 or so Yellow-rumped Warblers with it. The bird did not
make any sound like the yellow-rumps do. The bird move about
the branches about medium-size up the tree. The bird was
here for 3 minutes showing only head and throat and the
wings. The bird disappeared with the rest of the warblers
after 3 minutes. After searching for it the bird was not
seen again.-----
Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:The bird was seen in cottonwood trees in a large grove of
trees on the northwest corner of a large lake.

Other observers who independently identified the bird
(Please list names and address):

Sylvia W. Wheelock 1016 Short Street; Canon City, CO 81212
(719)-269-3719.

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. The field
marks used to identify the bird. Include Size, overall
shape, plumage, and color pattern; details on shape of bill,
wings, and tail.:

I spotted and identified a immature male Blackburnian
Warbler. I observed the following on this bird. I identified
it by it's warbler shape, small sized warbler for a
Yellow-rumped Warbler, by its bright yellow throat tinged
with orange, by it's bright yellow eyeline and by its two
white wing bars not one big one, two small one's however
very prominent. The bird was smaller than Yellow-rumped
Warbler though not by much. The shape of the bird was
typical warbler shape. I identified the bird as an immature
male because adult males will have a bright orange throat
this bird was not like that my bird had a yellow throat with
orange. The bird was not a female because of head pattern
color. On females it's brown, the bird I saw was a prominent
black. Color Pattern observed: Yellow throat with an orange
tinge to it. A very bright yellow eyeline. Ear patch was
black, the head was mainly black except for yellow orange
color on top of round head, on area going from eyeline down
to behind ear patch, and on throat. Black was on ear patch
and crown except for top of head. SW and I saw this area
very well. The bill was not very long, it looked the same as
most other warblers by bill length, bill shape, and bill
width. The bill was pretty shinny. The leg, feet and eye
color could not be distinguished. The back was not seen well
as the continued to face to us and not have back toward us.
I could tell the back was dark except for wings bars two
small ones though very easy to see. The marking on upper
back could not be seen unfortunately. The tail was not seen
well could I not see white on tail or could not tell the
shape of the tail. Wings and all of back was dark except for
wing bars which were white and tail which we could not ever
see well. Underparts were light we could not seen markings
above belly.

This bird was no doubt a Blackburnian Warbler and not
Townsend's or Black-throated Green or any other warbler.
Sylvia has seen a Blackburnian Warbler in this same plumage
in Southern California a few years ago in the fall.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds if heard:

The bird did not make any chipping calls or did not sing.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

A adult male Townsend's Warbler would have a combination of black throat and not as bold and bright yellow eyeline as the bird I saw had.

A adult female Townsend's Warbler would have a small yellow throat and a brown ear patch.

All adult Black-throated Green Warblers would have black on the throat.

Immature Golden-cheeked, Black-throated Green, and Hermit Warblers have brown ear patch and yellow throats.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Blackburnian: This is my first one.

Townsend's: 36 in 1992, 9 in 1991, 5 in 1990, and 3 in 1988 all in Colorado.

Black-throated Green: 1 male in Colorado.

Hermit and Golden-cheeked: I've never seen either.

References used during and after sighting:

National Geographic Society; 2nd Edition Birds of North America

Peterson's Eastern Birds

Peterson's Western Birds

National Audubon Society's Master Birding Guide Volume 3

Colorado Birds; A Reference to their Distribution and Habitat. Andrews & Richter.

This report was written from notes made during____; after x__ from memory____.

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Signature: Brandon K. Percival Sept. 27, 1992

Return form to: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator-Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205
