

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

ACCEPTED

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

| X |

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Blackburnian Warbler
(Vernacular Name)Dendroica fusca
(Scientific Name)Date(s): May 15, 1994Number of birds seen: 1Sex: malePlumage: adultLocality: Fountain Creek Regional Park Nature CenterElevation: 5700Nearest town: Colorado SpringsCounty: El PasoTime(s) observed: 9:00-9:15 9:30-9:35 10:00-10:15Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 20 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Toni Breuillier Colorado Springs
 Mark Janos 10 Sedum Court Pueblo, CO 81001
 Gary Conover Colo. Sprs.

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Greg Butcher Colorado Springs | Virginia E John Maynard Colorado Sprs.
 Susan Blackshaw Colorado Springs
 about 15 others

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

excellentOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10x40 Bausch & Lomb BinocularsDistance, and how measured: 10-20 feetIf photographed, type of equipment and film: not photographed.Who else photographed the bird? no one.

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

The bird foraged in the cottonwood trees in the upper branches,

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field: I identified this bird by its orange throat and large white wing bars. The size was about 5 inches. The overall shape was typical warbler shaped. The plumage was an adult male. The color pattern is as follows: The bill was dark. The forehead was orange with a black line from the head going to the bill on both sides of the orange forehead. The face was orange with a black ear patch on both sides of the head.

Description (continued): Also the bird had an orange eye stripe above both eyes. The eyes were dark. The back of the head was all black. The back was black with stripes forming a V. This V was yellowish white. The wings were black with one large wingbar on both wings. The tail was black with some white. The chin and throat were all bright orange. The breast and belly was yellow with black streaks on the sides. The under tail coverts were yellowish. The legs and feet were dark. The bill was a little thicker than some warblers however the bill was short. The wings and tail were typical warbler shaped.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): The bird did sing while perched. I could not describe the song.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:
In cottonwood trees near Fountain Creek in riparian woodlands.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?
Townsend's Warbler! These species will not have a orange throat.
All other warblers do not have an orange throat.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?
I have seen one immature male ^{Blackburnian Warbler} at Lake Henry Colorado in 1992.
Townsend's Warbler: I have seen many in Colorado in the past several years.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:
a) at time of observation: National Geographic Society's Birds of North America
b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation X from memory _____

Date and time report was written: May 15, 1994 2:00-2:30 PM

Reporting observer: Brandon Percival Signature: Brandon K. Percival

Address: 835 Harmony Dr. Pueblo West, Colorado 81007-2604

Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
13810 WCR 1
Longmont, Colorado 80504

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

52-94-64

ACCEPTED

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

Dendroica fusca

Location: Fountain Creek Regional Park; Fountain; El Paso County, Colorado

Date: May 15, 1994

This bird was discovered by Brandon Percival during an organized Colorado Springs spring count.

Setting:

I arrived at the Nature Center at Fountain Creek Regional Park about 9:30 a.m. The area is a riparian woodland, with the Nature Center itself situated on a bluff overlooking some small ponds. Large fully leafed-out cottonwoods line the trail that angles down the bluff. I met up with some of the observers, including Brandon Percival, who told me that a male Blackburnian Warbler was in the area. We re-found the bird about 10:15. It foraged high in a cottonwood, but because the we stood on the bluff at about tree crown level, we were able to observe this small active warbler for several minutes at "eye level" and close range. I watched the bird for about 5-10 minutes, from 20-30 feet distance, with B & L 10 x 42 binoculars. It was a lovely warm, clear and still day with excellent light. About another 15 birders, including Virginia Maynard and Toni Brevillier also saw the bird.

Description:

The bird was an adult male in breeding plumage. Although I did not hear it sing, others reported that the bird earlier sang from the tree-tops. They described the song to me as a very high, thin trill. It was a small, slim, active warbler about 4 1/2" long. It fed actively in the twigs and foliage near the branch tips, at the edge of the crown of a cottonwood. It sometimes hung like a chickadee while it probed for insects. At times it revealed itself in the open and it was a brilliant and beautiful bird. The bird had a intense orange chin, throat and upper breast. The orange faded to yellowish on the breast and white on the undertail coverts. It had conspicuous black streaking on the flanks. The face was also orange, but overlaid with an irregular black mask. The mask was broken by an orange eyeline and an orange crescent below the eye. The black crown and nape were relieved by a narrow orange streak from the base of the bill and up through the forehead, ending at mid-crown. The uppersides, including the tail were black. The bird had two distinct white diagonal lines across the back and a large, conspicuous white panel in each wing. The tail was rather short. The bill was small, dark and slender with a pointed tip. The legs and feet were dark.

Similar Species:

The small size, slim shape and small, pointed bill indicate a warbler. Really no other warbler is so bright orange and the white diagonal streaks on the back are diagnostic for this species. The Northern Parula is bluish above and lacks black streaking and many other features of this bird. Cape May Warbler lacks the black face patch and orange crown streak. Kentucky Warbler is plain olive above and does not have white in the wing and lacks flank streaking.

Experience with Species:

I have never see Blackburnian Warbler in Colorado before. I have seen male Blackburnians in other states.

This report is prepared from notes made during and after observation.

Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001

