

Accepted 7-0

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD  UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER | Dendroica fusca  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): 10/28-29/88

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: female Plumage: adult

Locality: Grandview Cemetary, Fort Collins, CO Elevation: 4800

Nearest town: Fort Collins County: Larimer

Time(s) observed: 10/28: 2-4 PM 10/29: 12 noon - 1:30 PM

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): Off and on, for a total of several mi

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):  
None

Other observers who saw the bird independiently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)  
Joe Mammoser, Kevin Cook, Mike Schomaker: all of Fort Collins

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

Various, at times in direct sunlight from behind me

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Nikon 7x50 binoculars

Distance, and how measured: Various, as close as 25 yards

If photographed, type of equipment and film: Tokina 100-300 telephoto, PKL Kodachrome film

Who else photographed the bird? Nobody?

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):  
Very active. Stayed almost exclusively in mid to upper crowns of deciduous trees. Had a particular affinity for hackberries where it fed on emerging adult blistergall and nipplegall psyllids (small leafgall-forming insects). Occasionally observed flycatching and foraging in lower crown of hackberry. Seen in American elms and blue spruce on a few occasions. Fairly wary. Often would leave the tree it was in for no apparent reason and fly off to a tree 200 yards distant, only to return to same hackberry minutes later. 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 observe in the field:  
Head was generally black and yellow with lesser amounts of white; throat, breast and upper belly "egg-yolk" yellow; belly and under tail white; wings blackish with two wide, white wingbars; back medium gray with prominent black stripes; dark stripes on flanks; tail blackish with flashes of white; faint light patch on front of crown, otherwise dark gray; legs dark; blackish line thru eye; whitish-yellow eyebrow stipe; dark cheek patch; eye dark with no eyering but small yellow patch just touching and below eye; bill dark with tinge of pink.

Description (continued).

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Call note a thin "seep" or "chip". Note given fairly frequently while bird foraged at times, other times bird relatively silent.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Cemetery with extensive tree planting dating back to late 1800's: clusters of mature deciduous trees and evergreen with wide open grass areas.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Main confusion was with female and immature Townscond's warblers. Many individuals of this species in area, often in the same trees. The Townscond's primarily stayed in spruce, and were not as "nervous", foraged equally at all crown levels. Call notes of Townscond's "huski No greenish cast to blackburnian anywhere. Female and immature Townscond's in all plumages lack gray back with black stripes and light crown patch. All DMNH Townscond's (large series examined (all sexes) had some black on breast. Blackburnian chest color yellow with tinge of orange, not yellow with tinge of green as in Townscond's.

I have seen several blackburnians, especially males, while living in Ohio and North Carolina in my youth (20 years ago). I have little experience with female blackburnians and this was the first of this species I have seen in CO. I have lots of experience with CO Townscond's warblers. List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: National Geographic Field Guide and several others. Also spent three hours looking at warblers in DMNH collection.

This report was written from reports made during  X , after observation  X  from memory    
Date and time report was written:  December 4, 1988 11PM

Reporting observer:  Dave Leatherman  Signature:  Dave Leatherman

Address:  2048 Whiterock Ct., Fort Collins, CO 80526 (303) 484-5445

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205