

1998-122
ACCEPTED (7-0)

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - Rarity Report Form

Common Name: Blackburnian Warbler **Scientific Name:** *Dendroica fusca*

Number of Individuals: One. **Sex:** Male (?) **Age:** Adult (?)

Locality: Colorado: Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld **County:**

Date(s) Seen: 26 May 1998 **Time:** 7:55 - 8:00a.m.

Reporting Observer: Christopher L. Wood, 3465 S. Otis Court, Lakewood, CO 80227

Other Observers: None.

Light Conditions: Sunny, 10-20 mph wind **Optical Equipment:** None.

Distance to Bird: 6 - 20 meters **Duration of Observation:** I heard it singing three times within 4 minutes.

Habitat: Tall trees cottonwoods, maybe some box elder without any understory.

As I approached the main parking lot at Crow Valley I heard what I immediately recognized as a Blackburnian Warbler. I tried to make a tape recording, but the wind made it impossible to use the very sensitive microphone. I tried to find the bird for half an hour, but never did. After twenty minutes of not hearing anything, I gave up.

Description: Bird not seen.

Behavior: Singing from high in cottonwoods.

Vocalizations: The bird sang three songs, all the same, from high in the cottonwoods. Each song was very high-pitched. It consisted of two series of high, thin notes, followed by an extremely high upslurred note that was somewhat longer than each individual note of the previous series. The song seemed to get higher and higher, culminating in the extremely high note. All notes were somewhat buzzy/wiry.

Similar Species: Cerulean Warbler has a similar song, but it is not nearly as high-pitched. Songs of Black-and-White, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers are all similar to *other* vocalizations of Blackburnian Warbler - not the one I heard. Golden-crowned Kinglet has a more chickadee-like quality, does not rise or have an extremely high wiry note at the end.

Tape recordings / Photos? None.

References:

Dunn, J. and K. Garrett. 1997. *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America*. T. Schultz and C. House, illus. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Description from: xx Contemporaneous notes; ___ Later notes; ___ Memory.

Experience with Species: Blackburnian Warbler is the fourth or fifth most common warbler in the area of northern Wisconsin where I spent more than 500 hours working on the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas last summer. I usually heard more than 25 a day. In total I spent more than 1500 hours in the field working on the Atlas during the past three summers throughout Wisconsin. During this time I became very familiar with eastern bird songs. I also heard ten - twelve Blackburnians in Wisconsin less than a week prior to this "observation."

Are you Positive of the Identification? Yes.

Signature: Chris L. Wood
Date: 7/6/98