

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
 (Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

rec'd 5/27/02
 ACCEPTED

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #: 2002-56

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Blackburnian Warbler (Scientific Name) Dendroica fusca

Date(s) of occurrence: May 13, 2002

Number of birds seen: One Sex: Adult male Plumage: Alternate

Exact location: Next to Animas River behind Four Corners River Sports store southeast of downtown Durango on the Animas River.

County: LaPlata Nearest town: Durango Elevation: about 6400 ft

Length of observation: 60 minutes Time(s) of observation: 11:00am to 12:00 noon

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Susan Allerton came after I discovered bird and called her.

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Unknown

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Full sun with sun above the bird.

Optical equipment used: B&L Elite 10x40

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): As close as 50 ft.

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? No If so, are you submitting photos? N/A

Who took the photograph(s)? N/A

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Riparian area along Animas River with cottonwood trees as the predominant tree species.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Bird was feeding high in the cottonwood trees and occasionally came down to lower elevations to feed. Also, was occasionally chased by yellow-rumped warblers.

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Bird was obviously a warbler and probably dendroica by its size, shape, feeding habits, and bill size and shape. Bird was obviously a Blackburnian by its bright orange face, throat, and upper breast. Cap and nape were black, except for an orange median stripe from the top of the bill to about the top of the crown. Cheek patch behind the eye was black and triangular in shape on the orange face. Bill was black and thin. Back and wings of bird were black except for a large white wing patch that was partly bisected from the front by a partial black line. Also, there was some white feather edging on flight feathers and minor white on back. Lower breast faded from the bright orange to nearly white. The flanks were striped with several dashed black lines that started just below the top of the wings and continued to the lower flanks. The undertail coverts were white. The tail was black and displayed white tail spots when the bird flew. Legs were blackish.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Not heard

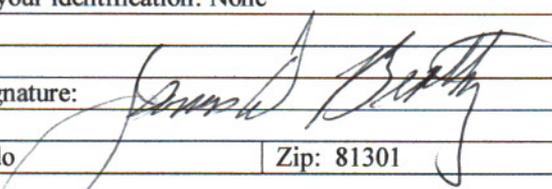
SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: No other dendroica warbler species is similar to a male Blackburnian in alternate plumage.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I've seen this bird many times annually in Ohio for 25 yrs.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification: None

This report was made from later from memory.

Date and time of written report: May 22, 2002 at 4:30pm

Reporting observer: James D. Beatty Signature: 

Reporting observer's address: 165 Twelve Point Buck Trail State: Colorado Zip: 81301

City: Durango

**Send report to:
 Colorado Bird Records Committee
 Tony Leukering
 PO Box 660
 Brighton, CO 80601**

2002-56

rec'd 6/19/02

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form (Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.) Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X:
RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Blackburnian Warbler (Scientific Name) *Dendroica fusca*

Date(s) of occurrence: 5/13/02

Number of birds seen: one Sex: male Plumage: Adult in breeding plumage

Exact location: Along the Animas River in Durango behind Four Corners River Sports (~ 1/4 mile downstream from Santa Rita Park).

County: La Plata Nearest town: Within the city limits of Durango, CO Elevation: ~6500 feet

Length of observation: 30 minutes Time(s) of observation: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM & 5:20 - 5:25 PM

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Jim Beatty in morning, Ann Rilling @ 5:20 PM

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: The sun was fairly high & about 110 degrees from the position of the bird. The lighting was fine.

Optical equipment used: Swarovski 7x42 binoculars.

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 30 - 60 meters

Was bird(s) photographed? No If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Narrowleaf cottonwood riparian woodland.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification):

The bird was seen high up in tall narrowleaf cottonwood trees. He was actively foraging. Primarily, the bird gleaned insects from the leaves of the trees, but would also sally out from a branch to catch insects.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

The overall size, colorful pattern, and small bill indicated the bird was a warbler. The bird was 4 or 5 inches from head to tail. The chin, throat, upper chest & a large portion of the face were bright orange. A black, triangular auricular patch contrasted with the margins of the face which were orange. The black auricular patch widened toward the back of the face. The back border of the black patch had thin extensions on both the upper and lower corners. The eye had a orange lower eye-crescent within the black auricular patch. The orange supercilium was continuous with the orange border at the posterior of the face. The crown & nape appeared entirely black when seeing a profile of the warbler. In actuality, the median crown at the forehead was bright orange, outlined in black (only seen when the head was tilted forward toward us). The mid crown and nape were solid black. Below the orange bib, a light yellow chest faded into white underparts. The sides of the chest, belly and flanks had black streaks. The wings were black with a large white patch. The front of the wing patch was split, creating abbreviated wing bars. The back was black, with several white feathers. The undertail coverts were white. The undertail was white with black outer corners on the tips. The uppertail appeared to have black central tail feathers. An extensive amount of white was displayed on the remainder of the uppertail feathers.

Describe bird's call or song: No vocalizations were heard.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: None

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

It has been a number of years since I've seen the species. My past experience with the bird was in PA.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

I consulted *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America* by Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett in the field while viewing some of the more subtle markings on the bird. For example, the amount of yellow on the underparts was less significant than portrayed in that reference. Additionally, the reference confirmed the median patch of orange on the forehead of the warbler. The ID was based on the striking orange color of the head & the distinct facial markings in combination with the body coloration.

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory

This report was made from memory on the day of observation, several hours after the observation.

Date of written report: 5/13/02

Reporting observer: Susan Allerton

Signature:



Reporting Observer's Address: 61 Newland Circle

City: Durango

State: CO

Zip: 81301

<sallerton@frontier.net>

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee Tony Leukering P.O. Box 157 Arvada, CO 80001