

2002-61

(A)

rec'd 6/5/02

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Blackburnian Warbler

Date(s): May 19, 2002 Time seen: 0730-0745

Locality: Bonny Reservoir State Park, south side

Latilong: 14 Optical equipment: Binoculars

Number of birds seen: One Sex: Male Plumage: Alternate

Light conditions: Excellent

Distance from bird: 15-45 feet

Weather at time of observation: Clear

Prior weather & number of days since change: Very very windy the day before.

Describe habitat: Cottonwood forest

Describe behavior: Feeding actively in medium-sized cottonwood. A Townsend's Warbler was in the same tree. The Blackburnian fed in the upper third of the canopy for most of the time, and was easier to see than the Townsend's.

Field marks observed: size, color, pattern, shape, bill, etc.:

Size: typical warbler size, similar to Townsend's Warbler in same tree.

Blaze-orange face and throat. Black crown and black mask (almost like the sideburns of a Kentucky Warbler). Big white wing patches. Blackish stripes on sides. The bird was so striking that all of our Birdathon group got excellent looks and could identify it by consulting their field guides.

Bird's call or song: Did not sing or call

Field marks not seen: We don't remember noticing the white tail patches.

Similar species: Can't think of any that resemble the male Blackburnian.

Prior experience: Seen frequently for several years in New York and the previous week at Point Pelee.

Description from: Memory

Also seen by: Mel and Elaine Emeigh, Bud Groves, Kathy Bollhoefer, Kayleen Drissell, Karen von Saltza, and Meredith Anderson.

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