52-90-51

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG RARE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Black-throated Blue Warbler (Vernacular name) | Dendroica caerulescens (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 21 May 1990 Time Bird Seen: 9:45 to 10:00 am

Locality: Lake Beckwith
Colorado City, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♀ Plumage: breeding

Light conditions: Good morning sun; clear sky.

Distance from bird, and how measured: Approx. 25-100 feet estimated.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird feeds by gleaning in small trees, mainly in tangles and along branches and clumps; occasionally out in foliage. Rather deliberate in movements, gleaning along branches; often interspersed with fluttering and hanging upside down as it feeds. Silent and open as it feeds tamely.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian tangle, foothills growth below dam.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

David Silverman, Bob Spencer

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Overall rather large and large-billed for a warbler, about 5½" long overall. Dull colored; dark above, tan below. Bill dark, large & long but pointed at tip. No wingbars; Uppersides uniform brownish-olive; head browner, less olive. Tail medium long with longish undertail coverts and white spots on underside of tail. Wings and tail darker brownish, darker than back. Small whitish mark shows in folded wing at base of primaries. Undersides mottled yellowish-buff, nearly white on chin & throat & lighter-toned on undertail coverts. Head, face & lores dull olive-brown. Clear narrow, distinct superciliary forms distinct "eye brow" Also a

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery--i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

clear, thin, cream-colored border under lower third of eye.

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

The overall large size, med-sized bill & deliberate movements give an initial impression of a vireo. However the long pointed bill, rather short tail, lack of wingbars & distinct eyeline and spot in wings rules out vireos. Plain wing & spot in primaries rule out all other warblers.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen many of Black-thr. Blue Warblers.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory ___.

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
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