52-92-45

DOCUMENTATION --
RARE BIRD SIGHTING

A

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION
AMERICAN BIRDS

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): October 28, 1992 Time Bird Seen: 10A.M. to 10:10 A.M.

Locality: West Animas Valley - 8 mi. N. of Durango, La Plata Co., Colo.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Bausch + Lomb 7x26 custom compact.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: Adult male

Light conditions: Overcast skies but good light.

Distance from bird, and how measured: 8' - estimate

Describe the bird's overall behavior:
Initially bird sat quietly on a branch, seemingly intimidated by a ruby-crowned Kinglet which was hopping from branch to branch and scolding loudly. I watched him thru my binocs, after 3 or 4 minutes he began feeding, reaching for insects on surrounding branches and staying in snowball bush for another 5 minutes before he flew.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
Snowball bush is at edge of yard with large Apricot tree to one side and Animas Valley Ditch appx. 6' below. Nearby are other fruit trees and a brushpile where I have feeders and bird bath.

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

_____

_____

5-2-92-45

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.

Bird was comparable in size to kinglet which scolded nearby - as it sat on branch. When it reached to get insects it appeared a bit larger. Warbler shape blue-grey above - no white on head or face which was black extending along throat and sides. Underparts very white with one white spot at base of primaries. Bill small - warbler shape. Wings blue, tail slaty-blue. Colors crisply separated.

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

no sound.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Black-throated Grey has white on face and fine streaking in addition to white wing bars. Not really very similar, any how.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

~~Occasional~~ spring sightings of black-throated Grey. Sightings around Ithaca, N.Y. - when I studied ornithology at Cornell of this species.

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

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