CFO-ORC FILE
#52-93-104

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Colorado Field Ornithologists - Sight Record Form

- -New State Record

- X - Rare bird in CO

Black-throated Blue Warbler (Species)

Dendroica caerulescens (Scientific name)

Date(s):
October 2, 1993 4:55-5:00PM 5 minutes.

Locality:
Valco Ponds Parking lot, along the Arkansas River, Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado.
Nearest town, county and state)

Optical equipment:
10X40 Bausch & Lomb Binoculars.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:
Not photographed.

Number of birds seen:1 Sex: female Plumage: adult

Light Conditions:
Excellent

Distance from bird and how measured:
5-10 feet

Describe the bird's overall behavior:
The bird feed on a Russian Olive Tree with a Orange-crowned Warbler and a Yellow-rumped Warbler. Then it flew to another russian olive and sat there feeding and moving very much.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
In Russian olive trees, along a largee river.

Other observers who independently identified the bird (Please list names and address):
Syliva Wheelock Canon City with me

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. The field marks used to identify the bird. Include Size, overall

shape, plumage, and color pattern; details on shape of bill, wings, and tail.:

I identified the bird by it's dark upper parts, dark ear patch, white eyeline, buffy white underparts, and by it's warbler shape. When I saw it I said "There's a female Black-throated Blue Warbler". The bird was about 5 inches in length and was a little larger then the Orange-crowned Warbler near it and a little smaller then the Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle race) also near it. The bird's shape was typical warbler shaped however, it was more stocky looking compaired to the Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers near it. The bird was in adult female plumage because it had a two little white spots on both wings with a little black or dark patch in front of the white spots. The color pattern is a follows: The bird had a black bill, the back was a very dark color mostly a dark olive color, the wings were darker then the back, also on the dark wings were a white squared patch and in front of this there was a dark squared shape mark. The tail was black. The underparts were all buffy white with lighter on throat and untail coverts. The bill, wings and tail were normall warbler shaped. The undertail coverts seemed longer then most warblers (at least the Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers). The legs and feet were not noticed.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds if heard:
When it flew it made a dit call.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:
Orange-crowned Warbler: This species does not have a dark cheek with a bright white eyeline.

Prior experience with this and similar species:
I've seen one male Black-throated Blue Warbler in Colorado in 1989. Syliva also has seen a male of this species in California. This was the first female for both of us. I've seen Orange-crowned Warblers in Colorado, California, and Arizona in large numbers.

Field Guides used to determine sighting:
National Geographic Society Bird's of North American

This report was written from notes made during____ after X ; from memory____.

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Signature: Brandon K Percival

Return form to: Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee