

Species: BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

Record No. 641-00-05

Location: INDIAN FORD CREEK - SQUAWBACK RD.
County: DESCHUTES
Date(s): JULY 24 - AUGUST 9, 2000

Reporters	details	slides	prints	VIDEO tapes
GRAIG GILSON	A		B-C-D E-F	H
JUDY MEREDITH	I			
OWEN SCHMIDT				F
GERARD KILLIE				G

Specimen no. & location _____

Accepted 9-0 Not accepted _____
 verified ✓ origin questionable _____
 Single rept. sighting _____ exotic not estab. _____
 Multiple rept. sighting _____

Records split _____ Records combined _____

Disposition

Secretary's File Duplicate File
 Main File A-H-B-C-D details A-H-B-E-F
 Slide File _____ slides _____
 Print File _____ prints _____
 Tape File F-G tapes F-G

Date reporter(s) notified: 4-26-01

641-00-05 A

Rare Bird Report

Adult male Blue-winged Warbler

24 & 25 July 2000, Squaw Back Road crossing of Indian Ford Creek, Deschutes Co., Oregon

Time and duration of sighting: about 15 minutes near 8:30 AM on 24 July from 15 to 50 feet. 2-3 seconds about 9 AM on 25 July 2000 in company of Chuck Gates, who also glimpsed bird at a distance of about 25 feet.

Video tape (15x) of the bird was obtained at a distance of 25-50 feet, though not very good.

Behavior: On the move constantly, as it gleaned, with short hop-flights, slowly making its way through willows and aspen. Usually stayed in dense foliage and shadow. Did not respond to pishing or owl imitations. No vocalizations were given.

Description: Warbler about the size and shape of Orange-crowned Warbler, but bill longer, straighter.

Entire face, crown, chin, neck and upper breast bright golden yellow, similar to, but brighter, than male Yellow Warblers (which were present for comparison). The yellow continued down to the lower breast and belly where it became a deeper yellow-orange. The forecrown was especially deep yellow, brighter than the rest of the face. The hindcrown and back of the neck changed hue gradually to the back which was yellow-green.

The bill was rather long for a warbler, black, and sharp-pointed. The eyes were black. The lores, from the base of the bill to the eye, were black. The thickness was about that of the height of the eye. This eyeline continued briefly behind the eye, but was thinner and came to a point about 1-1/2 eye-diameters behind the eye, and curved down slightly at the end.

The wings were gray. There were two, wide, diffuse, white wingbars which formed a panel of white similar to those on a female Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler.

The yellow lower belly ended abruptly with extensive white undertail coverts. Most of the undertail was white, only dark towards the end of the tail. The rump and uppertail were not noted.

Description written in field: "Bright yellow or orangish-yellow below, slightly greener above. Black lores and thin black line through eye, but not much behind eye. Grayish wings with two broad, diffuse, white wingbars. Undertail coverts white. Black eye and sharp pointed bill."

Details of sighting: The bird was first noted actively gleaning in a small bush among the willows. I observed it here for a solid 5 minutes at about 15 feet distance with 8x binoculars. It usually remained in thick foliage, but occasionally popped out into the open bright sunlight.

I went across the stream to the car and retrieved my camcorder. When I returned the bird was in the same bush, but quickly moved into some small aspens. From there I had to get off the road and move around to the west until the aspens were backlit by the sun. I was able to get some video at about 40-50 feet away with 15x, but mostly the bird was obstructed by leaves and branches. The bird was continually active, fly-hopping from twig to twig, never still. After another 5 minutes it worked its way back to the road, but 25 feet up in the aspen. I now had better light but the bird remained hidden in the center of the tree for the most part, and I stopped video recording, and went on to other birding.

Similar species: The yellow body and head with black line through the eye and gray wings with white wingbars made identification straightforward. At no time did I doubt that the bird was anything but Blue-winged Warbler. I am totally positive of this identification and the description above.

However, some other people attempting to see the bird later during the week saw, or thought they saw, this same bird, but remarked that what they saw was duller, appearing more as a "Brewster's Warbler." Indeed, some of the video does seem to show a whitish face. I attribute this to the extreme magnification, lack of a polarizing filter on the camcorder, and high contrast. It didn't help that this bird did not pause once while being video taped. All frames are blurred somewhat by movement.

In life, however, this bird was brilliant yellow over all of the face and chin, there was no hint of gray ear coverts. The wingbars were white, not yellow. This bird was a brilliant yellow male, not a duller female, and not a "Brewster's" hybrid.

Greg Gillson
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*Tracing of drawing made about
noon of the day of the sighting.*

Blue-winged Warbler

Reporter: Judy Meredith, jmeredit@bendnet.com

AUGUST 2, 2000

Seen 9:10 to 9:15 a.m. Squawback road, about 200 feet north of the bridge, in willow and alder. Seen with Diane Kook and earlier was seen by Diane Pettey and Dave Wendt who were not there any more when we saw the bird.

Weather - lighting - Warm summer morning, probably 75 to 78 by the time we saw the bird. Full sunlight today, overhead over our right shoulders. Bird seen from about 20 feet away for several seconds, then for about one minute off and on, and then for several minutes in full light but the bird was partially obscured off and on as it moved through the foliage within a confined area in one alder tree.

Optics - Swift ultra light 7/40 binocs.

Field marks - Bill black, (appeared all black) thin at tip, straight. Head - golden yellow top, throat. distinct black line through eye extending from behind the eye to the bill. In one view, I could see a lighter highlight over the black line. Later in looking in the book I see that is visible in the spring male but I had not noted that in the book until I saw it in the bird and looked for it.

Throat yellow, no white, no black

Breast, chest - all yellow, no streaks

Undertail and extending up part way up breast toward legs was white.

The tail looked medium deeply forked but I think it was from the pattern of black and white that make it look forked. The undertail had white feather pattern.

Wing bars - white, double. But looked almost blurred toward one wash of white due to edges of feathers or something making wing "bars" broader etc, They were all white though, not yellow at all. Background color was slate blue / gray I guess, hard to describe.

Other birds - saw Yellow Warbler male earlier, Wilson's Warbler earlier, both distinctly different, lacking black line through eye, lacking the white wing bars etc. Behavior different, flew more, used outer leaves and branches,. I am familiar with them as they are resident birds here.

Behavior - Despite what it is supposed to do, it stays pretty low. We never saw it higher than about 10 feet in the alder. As it moved through the willows it stayed at about 4 to 8 feet high and never perched quietly, it kept moving, feeding as Diane said, hanging upside down, flitting, etc. It seemed to stay mostly within the tree and shrubs and never really selected an outer branch or twig yet due to the constant quick movements, we could keep watching it and get views at many different angles. Perhaps when someone mentioned "skulking" type movements before they meant the tendency to stay partially hidden but I would not say it had slow movements, it was very busy. It moved along the shrubs working it's way along the stream about one willow deep in the line of willows on the west side, moving north the whole time. There were no other birds with it or associatiing near it when we saw it at 9:15. Perhaps earlier when Diane Pettey and Dave were there things may have been different.

Vocalizations - none heard

Past experience - I have seen Blue -winged Warbler once before in southern Minnesota., Burnside area at a refuge. The habitat was deciduous and mixed confierous and deciduous forest, openings of small meadow or grassy areas. The bird was flittiing from branch out and back to lower deciduous trees at 5 to 20 foot height. My only previous experience. This bird was more difficult to spot. (my 4th trip there for this).

References. Checked Peterson Warblers to determine age, sex. Matched Spring Male. It had bright golden yellow head and forehead and crown.



641-00-05 B

1b)



641-00-05 C

2)



641-00-05 D

3)