

5-19-1997

rec'd 6-3-97 ✓

Dear Records Committee Member(s),

Since early this year, I have been working on a Bird Census at Bluff Lake, an area located on the site of former Stapleton Airport. I have found a large number of species there on my surveys, but on May 11th of this year I observed a bird I thought you should know about. Following this introduction is a detailed report of my observations, involving a "Brewster's" Warbler. I hope you can use this information, and I would like to know what you think. Unfortunately, I did not manage to get a photograph or sound recording of the bird in question.

"Brewster's" Warbler *Vermivora pinus x chrysoptera* at Bluff Lake, Denver, Denver county, Colorado.

Date: 5-11-1997, Sunday;

Weather: Sunny, Wind less than 5 Mph, 50 degrees F, Barometric Pressure Low.

I observed the bird from about 7:30 AM until 8:00 AM, in a Willow tree on the North side of the lake, approximately 300'-400' West of the newly constructed boardwalk.

The bird was busy gleaning bugs off the leaves and blossoms, calling and singing. It seemed totally oblivious of my presence and allowed me to watch it from only 10 to 15 feet away.

Identification:

The bird initially struck me as mostly warm yellow in front, blue-green on top, with white belly and a conspicuous narrow black mask through the eye.

Upon closer examination, I noted the following markings: The bill was narrow, regular length for a *Vermivora*, and black. The eye was black, and the bird had a black eye line that ended just behind the eye in a point. It was about the width of the bill. The forehead was warm yellow, as was the breast. From the back of the head to the throat and chin, there was a light grayish colored area, in between the yellow forehead and breast. The belly and undertail coverts were off-white in color. The legs were dark-colored. The wings were blue-green, with two obvious wing bars, a faintly yellow-tinted white. See the added drawing for clarity purpose.

If you need to contact me regarding this report, please contact me at:

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Home: (303) 364-5547

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Sincerely,

Bert W.M. Philippus.

This is the "Brewster's" Warbler *Vermivora pinus x chrysoptera* as seen on 5-11-1997 at Bluff Lake by Bert W.M. Philippus.

