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DOCUMENTATION -- RARE BIRD SIGHTING

Brewster's Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* X *pinus*
 or *V. leucobronchialis*

Date: 21 May 1987, 8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Locality: Hanna Ranch, a/k/a Colorado Springs Wildlife Area
Fountain, El Paso Co., Colorado

Optical equipment: binoculars

One bird, male, in alternate (hybrid) plumage

Light conditions: fair; cloudy bright, often into gray sky.

Distance: varied from 20-75 feet from the bird.

Behavior: He moved from tree to tree, singing frequently and also picking caterpillars off leaves and feeding. He descended to the willows once and to a patch of snowberries once. Despite the regular bouts of singing, he often became silent and we lost track of him until he resumed singing.

Habitat: Riparian, mainly Plains Cottonwood woodland with some willows, snowberry, and lush herb growth.

Other Observer: Toni Brevillier, 1440 Wood Ave., Colorado Springs 80907.

Description:

Size: small, warbler size.

Beak: thin, warbler-like.

Crown: Bright yellow (almost crested like a flycatcher).

Eye: Black line from beak to eye and behind the eye a short distance.

Head: Whitish cheek and throat which contrasted with yellow crown and chest.

Breast: Orange-yellow, more extensive than birds shown in Golden guide or eastern Peterson; more like Master Guide's picture on p. 113, middle.

Belly: Grayish-white.

Back: Gray. (Toni thought it had a yellowish or olive tinge; I did not see this.)

Wing: Two yellow wing bars.

Calls or sounds: He sang frequently--that's how we noticed it and found it.

Song: Bzzz
 zeee

Similar Species: Blue-winged is yellow all over chest, head, belly, and back.

Golden-winged and Lawrence's have black patches on face.

Virginia's lacks ing bars, yellow crown, eye line; has different song.

Farula has gray head and male has chestnut band on chest.
Vireos lack yellow crown and thin bill. (The bird did seem to
associate, sort of, with a Warbling Vireo.)

Prior experience: I have seen Brewster's several times in upstate NY,
and have seen the others either in New York or Colorado or both.

Report written from notes made during observation.

Hugh E. Kingery
HUGH E. KINGERY
869 Milwaukee St.
Denver, CO 80206

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

Same bird as 52-87-69 A

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Brewster's Warbler
(Vernacular Name)Hybrid

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): Thursday May 21, 1987Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: _____ Plumage: _____Locality: Colorado Springs Wildlife Area (Hanna Ranch) Elevation: _____Nearest town: Fountain County: El PasoTime(s) observed: 4Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1 second to 45 seconds.

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Hugh Kingery
869 Milwaukee St Denver CO 80206 303-733-0161

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

None that I know ofLight conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
Very overcastOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Bausch + Lomb Eloris 8x42Distance, and how measured: 10 yards to 100 yards - estimatedIf photographed, type of equipment and film: N/AWho else photographed the bird? N/ADescribe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):
Hugh called from a distance - "that isn't a sparrow" I finally heard a high pitched zzzz or ssss sound. We finally traced it. (the bird was never still for more than 1 minute at the most or well hidden by leaves) to the top of a tree. The bird was moving around feeding.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

I saw the head briefly 2 times - yellow on crown 30 seconds - black lineI saw the back longer - definite olive undertones.If I hadn't been in Hugh I don't think I could have made the ID.

Description (continued):

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

The lisping type zzzz or ssss.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian habitat beside and along either side Little Fountain Creek
Hanna Ranch

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Hugh did

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

None

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: Hugh Kungery and the Golden Guide to Birds of North America (1966 Edition)

b) after observation: National Geographic Field Guide to North American Birds (1st and 2nd Edition); Peterson: Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies 4th Edition; Audubon Society: Master Guide to Birding. This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation from memory

Date and time report was written: _____

Reporting observer: Toni Brewster Signature: Toni Brewster

Address: 1440 Wood Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80907

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205