

RECORD #: 21-B-05

IDAHO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

SPECIES:

Blackburnian Warbler

REPORTER:

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OTHER OBSERVERS:

Ron Weeks, Lake Jackson, TX
Cliff and Lisa Weisse, Island Park, ID

DATE REPORT PREPARED:

6/12/05

DATE SIGHTING OCCURRED:

6/3/05

LOCALITY OF OBSERVATION:

Shelterbelt on north end of Market Lake WMA, near Roberts, Idaho

HABITAT:

Cottonwood/Russian Olive grove

CONDITIONS:

Temperature in mid 60s, little wind in shelterbelt.

Optics were Pentax DCF WP 8 x 42 binoculars. Distance to bird at initial observation was ~15 ft. During the total observation, distance varied from 10 ft. to 50 ft. as the bird foraged in the leaves of the nearby trees.

DID YOU TAKE NOTES?:

not at all

DID YOU CONSULT FIELD GUIDE OR OTHER REFERENCES?:

not at all

WHAT GUIDE(S) OR REFERENCE(S) DID YOU CONSULT?:

DESCRIPTION:

Warbler-sized bird with bright orange throat, black markings in the auriculars which joined with black eye stripe. Pointed black bill was of moderate length. White undertail coverts, and white on the distal portion of the outer rectrices.

BEHAVIOR:

This bird fed on items found on leaves, particularly their undersides. It seldom stopped moving. At times, the bird hovered briefly at it caught items on the wing, not very far from its previous perch. The bird ranged from near eye-level to the higher points on the area vegetation. It did not vocalize during the encounter. The bird had no interaction with other birds, most of whom were not feeding or perching at its level.

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE BIRD, AND WHAT CLINCHED THE IDENTIFICATION FOR YOU?

The bright orange throat on this bird, along with the white undertail coverts and black markings on the auriculars and the black eyestripe were diagnostic of this species.

HOW DID YOU ELIMINATE SIMILAR SPECIES, AND WHAT WERE THEY?

No other warbler has this combination of orange throat and black facial markings. The bird was smaller than the Western Tanagers in the area, and the orange coloration was less red than the male tanager red-orange head coloration.

EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES (AND SIMILAR SPECIES):

I see multiple Blackburnian Warblers of both sexes each spring along the Upper Texas Coast.

GENERAL BIRDING EXPERIENCE:

Advanced birder, including bird survey work on warblers and vireos in Texas. I also do multiple Breeding Bird Surveys each year.

WERE PHOTO(S), VIDEO, AND/OR AUDIO OBTAINED BY YOU?:

None