

721B-01-1993

Rare Bird Report

Species: "Brewster's" Warbler (hybrid between Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers)

Reporter: Steve Santner
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Date: June 12, 1993. Notes were made at the time of the sighting and written up July 7, 1993.

Location: Eastern Beaver Co. along Crows Run, east of the town of Freedom.

Habitat: Brushy area along creek, some large trees present. Undergrowth moderately thick. Although this area appeared to be reasonable habitat for Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers, I would not have considered it prime habitat as there were too many tall trees.

Sighting conditions: Seen at about 20-25 ft for several seconds. I had a clear view during this time. The bird moved about and was seen for a total of about 30 seconds at several perches from 20-50 ft distant. It was heard for about 5 min.

Other observers: None.

On June 12, at about 11:00 AM I was driving the road along^y Crows Run. I stopped at one point and heard a bird singing a buzzy "bee-buzz-up". The song sounded exactly like a Blue-winged Warbler but with an extra note added. I waited a few minutes but the bird did not approach closely. Knowing that odd songs of this type sometimes indicate hybrids, I played a Screech Owl tape and called it in. When it approached, I could quickly see that it was a "Brewster's" type hybrid, although there were two characteristics which differed from other Brewsters that I have seen. I could see the yellow crown and a black eyeline (exactly like Blue-winged), a white throat and gray back (like Golden-winged). The remainder of the undersides were mostly yellow. The presence of wingbars, but not their color was noted. The bird soon tired of trying to find the "owl" and moved back from the road where it could not be seen although it continue to sing the same three note song as originally heard. The two differences noted from previous Brewster's were the large amount of yellow underneath (others I've seen were white or had only a touch of yellow on the breast), and the song, which was much closer to Blue-winged than to Golden-winged Warbler (all Brewster's I've heard singing sang Golden-winged type songs.

Elimination of similar species: The pure Blue-winged is eliminated by the white throat and overall gray, not bluish color of the back. The pure Golden-winged and the Lawrence's hybrid are eliminated by the Blue-winged type eyeline and lack of the black facial "mask". It is possible that this may be a back cross between a first generation Brewster's type hybrid and a Blue-winged Warbler. No other species are similar enough to consider.

Experience with this and related species: I have seen Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers for over 20 years. I have had 5-6 Brewster's sightings of 7-8 birds (including 3 fledglings at one time) and two Lawrence's Warbler sightings.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Brewster's Warbler ()

Date of Sighting: 12 June 1993 to 12 June 1993

Location: CROWS RUN

County: BEAVER

Observer(s): Steve Santner

Date of Submission: 1994

Submitted by: Steve Santner

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater				X				
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. C. Haas

Date:

3-31-95