

## A BLUE-WINGED X GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER IN CALIFORNIA

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On 1 October 1973 we discovered a Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus* x *V. chrysoptera*) in a willow (*Salix* sp.) patch at the old Eureka Airport, 0.25 mile south of Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., California. We studied the bird from 09:15 to 09:30 and then left for Arcata to contact other local birders. At approximately 10:30 we returned to the willow patch with Bob Behrstock, Dick Erickson, Gary Friedrichsen, Stan Harris, Ron LeValley, Linda Schliesman, Don Schmoldt and Paul Springer. The bird was easily relocated and seen well by everyone present. The bird was last seen at 14:45 by Summers, Bud Fry, and Stan and Tonna Harris. The following description was obtained:

Crown very bright yellow. Nape, back and upper tail coverts olive-green. Black eyeline extending from base of bill through eye and almost as far past the eye as before the eye. Auricular area light greenish-gray.

Wings gray with two very distinct intense yellow (almost gold) wingbars. Area immediately in front of bend of wing gray.

Throat bright yellow fading to a heavy yellow wash on the upper breast and then becoming bright yellow again on the lower breast and belly up to and between the legs. Lower belly from legs back to and including undertail coverts white except for a yellow wash in vent area. Sides white. Underside of tail had two elongated white spots.

Eye and bill black. Legs medium in color—not black and not light.

A description and color drawing of the bird are on file with the California Field Ornithologists Records Committee.

During the entire period of observation the bird was actively feeding in the tops of the willows at a height of 15-20 feet. The bird was generally silent except for two occasions when a thin high-pitched "seep" was heard.

There are four acceptable records for the Blue-winged Warbler and nine for the Golden-winged Warbler in California (McCaskie pers. comm.) but no previous record for hybrids. Elsewhere in the west, Bailey and Niedrach (*Birds of Colorado*: 671, 1965) reported sightings of this hybrid in Colorado on 22 May 1955 and 14 May 1963. However, the Colorado Field Ornithologists Official Records Committee (*Colorado Field Ornithologist* 18:14, 1973) removed the hybrid from the *Official State List of the Birds of Colorado* due to the lack of documentation. Another hybrid was reported seen in New Mexico on 12 October 1960 (*Audubon Field Notes* 15:55, 1961) and later published by Sutton (*Oklahoma birds*: 492, 1967). However, Hubbard (*Check-list of the birds of New Mexico*: 74, 1970) stated the record was withdrawn.

Lester Short (pers. comm. to Ron LeValley) says our bird is unusual in having a yellow throat and distinct yellow wingbars. Hybrids of this type usually have white throats and fused yellow wingbars.

We wish to express our appreciation to Guy McCaskie and Dick Erickson for assistance in compiling western records of these birds.