

Golden-winged Warbler

By David Brewer

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ON 29th December 1976, while bird-watching on the Blanchisseuse Road about 12 miles from Arima, I saw a Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* feeding in Cecropia trees along with other birds. It was about 5 inches long, the upperparts dull olive-gray with a conspicuous yellow shoulder bar; the head was grayish except for a yellow forehead, with a triangular black throat patch and a thick black mark through the eye. From the general dullness of the colours I would judge that the bird was a female. It was seen in bright sunlight from about 30 feet distance, both from below and on the same level. I am very familiar with the species in Canada, where several pairs nest near my house.

This appears to be the first record of the species for Trinidad, and in the West Indies the species is only known on passage through the Bahamas and Cuba. It breeds in eastern North America from southeastern Canada south to Iowa and Georgia, wintering in Central and South America from Guatemala through Panama to Colombia and northern Venezuela. It is known as a winter resident in the mountains of the latter area. It is not, therefore, unlikely that a few individuals should find their way to the Northern Range of Trinidad at this time of year.