

R-7 Nov 01

Colorado Record No: 2001-100  
Colorado Rare Bird Report Documentation Form

ACCEPTED

Common Name: BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata*

Numbers Seen: One Distance: 10 to 30 feet

Light conditions: It was fair and mild during the days the bird was present. Sunny, clear, gentle winds. Optical Equipment: Swarovski 8X30.

Sex and Age: Fall plumage

Location: At the Alamosa Golf Course. Just south of the driving range. In Russian Olive trees lining a small frogpond. Bird was feeding on insects in the Olive trees. It would feed along side of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler and others it was with.

County: Alamosa County. Date and Time of Observation: October 13, 2001, October 14, 2001, October 15 (Lisa only), October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Both morning and evening observations. Total watched time was 1.5 hours.

Description of the Bird(s): The bird was first found by myself in the Russian olive trees. It was with Yellow-rumped warblers and was about that size, being 5 to 5 ½ inches in length. The first impressions of this bird was an olive and yellow colored warbler with two prominent white wingbars. Immediately I narrowed the identification down to the difficult Blackpoll/Pine/Bay-breasted Group.

Crown, face, nape, and back were olive green. Tail was brown. Back was noticeably streaked with darker lines on the olive base color. Wings were brown with two prominent dusky white wingbars. Throat was yellow down to through the breast and carried over into the belly. There were diffuse streaks on the sides. At belly, yellow color broke into white undertail area. Bill was narrow, decurved and average for a warbler. Eye was dark, and there was slight eyeline. Could not see undertail pattern clearly. Legs were dark colored.

Habitat: Russian olives next to a small wetland.

Behavior: Feeding and flying. Staying no higher than 15 feet off the ground in thick shrubs and trees. Feeding amongst other warblers.

Vocalizations: None

Differentiation from Similar Species. We used all available field guides to identify this species. Especially helpful were Kaufmann's book where he discusses the "Blackpoll Trio". We concurred with Kaufmann's approach and tried to get as many field marks as possible to differentiate them.

Pine Warbler: Will generally lack the streaks on the back. This bird had streaks so Pine is eliminated.

Bay-breasted: Our bird lacked any bay color on the flanks. There was no pale lime green nape as would occur on Bay-breasted. Breast of this bird was greenish yellow, and not buffy yellow.

Previous Experience with this Species: Have seen this in breeding plumage in South-eastern Colorado, Texas, Alaska and Massachusetts.

Others who observed this species: Lisa Rawinski, Jerry Poe, John Stump, Virginia Simmons

Significance (How rare is this for the area, optional) There are no fall records for this species in the San Luis Valley.

Was the bird Photographed? No.

Report was made 1 day after last observation.

Observer and Signature:  Date: October 17, 2001

Send to: Tony Leukering, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601