

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

rec'd 5/12/02

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #: 2002-47

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Blackpoll Warbler

(Scientific Name) Dendroica striata

Date(s) of occurrence: May 7, 2002

Number of birds seen: One

Sex: Male

Plumage: Alternate

Exact location: Pastorius SWA on east side of lake between restrooms and end of road.

County: LaPlata

Nearest town: Durango

Elevation: about 6700ft

Length of observation: 30 minutes

Time(s) of observation: about 11:15 to 11:45 am

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Susan Allerton

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Ann Rilling

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Full sunlight with sun above bird.

Optical equipment used: B&L Elite 10x40

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): As close as 25ft.

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? No

If so, are you submitting photos? N/A

Who took the photograph(s)? N/A

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Mostly in low pinyon pine and junipers. Also, in cottonwoods for short period.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Feeding in trees and flying short distances between trees.

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification.

I immediately identified this bird as a full alternate plumage male Blackpoll Warbler. It had a black cap that came down to the eye and a prominent white cheek that extended from near the bill to well behind the auricular area. The back was gray, striped with black. The underparts were all white from the throat through the undertail coverts, except for prominent striping on the flanks. This striping started as a solid line from the bill and spread into broad dashed striping on the flanks. The wings were blackish with two obvious white wingbars and the edges of the tertials were white. The bill was thin and appeared long. The upper mandible was black and the lower mandible appeared yellowish near the base. The tail was black when the bird was at rest, but showed some white when spread in flight.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Not heard

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: The combination of black cap, extensive white cheek, black moustachial stripe turning into flank stripes and white underparts are diagnostic. Both black-and-white and black-throated gray warblers have a black eyeline and the female black-and-white does not have a black cap. There are several other plumage differences as well.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen this warbler many times in southwest Ohio where I birded for 25 years. I have extensive experience with both other similar warblers as well.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): None. I knew this bird the moment I saw it.

This report was made from later from memory.

Date and time of written report: 9:30pm May 7, 2002

Reporting observer: James D. Beatty

Signature: 

Reporting observer's address: 165 Twelve Point Buck Trail

City: Durango

State: CO

Zip: 81301

Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601

(A)

2002-47

rec'd 6/14/02

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form (Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.) **Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Blackpoll Warbler (Scientific Name) *Dendroica striata*

Date(s) of occurrence: 5/7/02, 5/8/02

Number of birds seen: one Sex: male Plumage: Breeding adult

Exact location: Pastorius Reservoir, La Plata County, Colorado

County: La Plata Nearest town: Durango Elevation: ~6800 feet

Length of observation: 40 minutes Time(s) of observation: 11:00 AM - noon

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Jim Beatty on 5/7; Peter Derven, John Rees, Les Lesperance on 5/8.

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Ann Rilling and Pete Skartvedt on 5/7/02.

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: We were able to position ourselves for optimum lighting conditions.

Optical equipment used: Swarovski 7x42 binoculars.

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 10 meters to 25 meters for the majority of the time.

Was bird(s) photographed? Yes If so, have you submitted photos? No

Who took the photographs? Les Lesperance from Farmington, NM took photographs.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

The bird preferred foraging in Pinyon/juniper habitat and to a lesser extent in narrowleaf cottonwood trees on the east side of the reservoir. Finding the bird in the sage @ times provided exceptionally close views at ~ 5 meters. The reservoir is on a mesa top that is surrounded by mainly agricultural lands.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification):

Primarily, the bird was gleaning insects from trees and occasionally would sally out to catch insects.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

The bird was easily identified as a warbler by its small size, rather small, flat bill, and its feeding habits (as described above). I couldn't discern a size difference between the Blackpoll and the numerous Audubon's Warblers foraging in the same trees. The Blackpoll Warbler did have a noticeably short tail. The head had an entirely black cap that extended down to about the height of the eye, to include most of the eye, the nape & all of the forehead. The chin, throat and the auriculars were white, except for 2 black, lateral throat stripes. The lateral throat stripes widened and merged with distinct streaking that extended down the sides of the chest & the sides of the bird. The underparts were white. The back was gray with wide, black streaking. The wings coverts were black with 2 white wing bars on each wing. The primaries were olive. The margins of the tertials were white. The rump and uppertail were gray. The undertail coverts were white. The undertail was white on the folded tail, except for black outer corners to the tail. The bill was 2-toned: the upper manible was black, the lower mandible was pale yellow. The legs were a pinkish-orange color.

Describe bird's call or song: No vocalizations were heard.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

Both Black-throated gray Warbler and Black-and-white Warbler have a black auricular patch with a white supercilium while the Blackpoll has an entirely black cap with a white auricular patch. The black and white areas on the head of the Blackpoll Warbler are more similar to a Black-capped Chickadee's head, although lacking the solid black throat of a chickadee. (I mention the chickadee only to clarify the coloration.)

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

It's been a couple of years since I've seen Blackpoll Warblers - some in breeding plumage in Canada & one that fall in NM.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

I did refer to *A Field Guide to Warblers* of North America, Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett in addition to *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, David Sibley to confirm facial pattern, the presence of a 2-toned bill and the olive color in the primaries.

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory.

This report was made from notes written up an hour or two after the observation.

Date of written report: 6/13/02

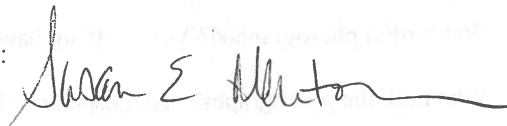
Reporting observer: Susan E. Allerton

Reporting Observer's Address: 61 Newland Circle

City: Durango State: CO Zip: 81301

<sallerton@frontier.net>

Signature:



Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee Tony Leukering P.O. Box 157 Arvada, CO 80001