

Species: Cape May Warbler

(Vernacular Name)

Dendroica tigrina

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 6-12 + 13 - 77

Time Bird Seen: 6-12 - 0700 ^{1st} discovered to 6-13 - 1200

Locality: Rocky Mountain National Park

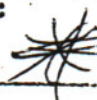
Nearest Town: Estes Park

County: _____

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

 see below

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: 7x50 Binoes 20x50 Spotting Scope w/ zoom lens

If photographed, type of equipment used: Canon F1 SLR w/ 400M Vivitar lens

Light Conditions: clear, sunny

Distance from bird (how measured): 40-70' (approximated)

Number of Birds Seen: 2

Sex: ♂ + ♀

Plumage: Breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: The male sang constantly and vigorously from the top of the middle of 3 spruce trees most of the time. Occasionally it would sing from the tops of the two adjoining spruce trees, and once or twice from the top of a spruce tree approx. 30' from this area. At times the ♂ would descend lower to approx. 40' and begin feeding on insects by picking them from branches, at which time it stopped singing. On the first day, only the ♂ was located, but on the second day a female joined him briefly. He chased her around a bit and they joined together for a few seconds, as if copulating, whereupon the ♀ disappeared into the dense foliage. The ♀ remained in view during this time for only about 20 seconds and I did not see her again.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern.

Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

I had recognized the bird by its song before I had actually seen it, ~~by its song~~ as I had heard it before during migration. It took some time to actually find it as it was on the very top of a tall spruce and I wasn't at the right angle. Also its small size at that height made it difficult to find until it began to move around.

The most noticeable field mark would have to be the heavily streaked bright yellow breast. The white wing patch was conspicuous next, and then finally the chestnut cheek patch. Of course it had the typical size and shape of the Dendroica group. The ♀ was ~~similar~~ brownish ^{breasted} with brown breast streaks on a buffy breast and traces of yellow around the head.

 I pointed the ♂ out to a family of three from Ca. that were in the area for the NAS convention. The husband was familiar with it and his wife and son had seen a new "life" bird. I also showed it to an individual who said he was photographing the 3rd nesting of the Red-Breasted Nuthatch for the park, which was only about 50' from this spot. Unfortunately I did not remember the names of these people.

XJB

Describe the bird's song; or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: The ♂ sang constantly from early morning into the afternoon, though not as often ~~later~~ later in the day as the temp. rose. It sang mainly from the very top of three tall spruce trees, part. the top of the center tree. Once or twice it flew to the top of a spruce about 30' from these trees to deliver its song. The song consisted of approx. 8 high, thin notes given rapidly on the same pitch, with intervals of 3-10 seconds between delivery in the morning and longer intervals later in the day. 28

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Predom. - spruce forest Just down the road from the sign reading Endorvalley Campground, past the Elk clearing, next to the road, were three tall (60-70') spruce (sp?) trees surrounded by lower growing deciduous trees and shrubs. About 30' beyond these three spruces was a thick forest consisting of more of this species of spruce. 28

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

There were no similarly appearing species in this area at the time of my visit.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I first made the acquaintance of the Cape May Warbler on Sept. 5, 1962 at Rix Park, B'klyn, N.Y. when quite a number were migrating south along the coast. I have since observed this species in breeding plumage during spring migrations in New York, Virginia, and Florida. K.B.

My first sightings of the Cape May Warbler were of numerous subjects in fall plumage during migration. This was 9/15 at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref. in N.Y. The subjects of the report were clearly identified according to both Peterson's Guide & Birds of the East by Robbins et al. 1962. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation? When I'm on birding trips out west, I usually check the western ranges of "Eastern" birds that I discover. When I discovered the Cape May Warblers, the first book I consulted was Peterson's Western Field Guide where it stated the Cape May Warbler was "accidental" in Colorado. Next I consulted Collins's Birds of R.M. Nat. Park where I found no reference to this species for the Park. I then realized how unusual this observation was, and submitted a written record to the Park Naturalist. 18

This report was written from notes made during _____ after observation; from memory _____

Kenneth H. Bass

PRINT NAME: Frances J. Kobetic

SIGNATURE: *F. J. Kobetic*

DATE: 8-22-77

Street Address: 2848 Annandale Rd.

Town and State: Falls Church, Va.

ZIP: 22042

Return to: JACK REDBAIL 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

HUGH E. KINCERY
689 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD☐ NEW STATE RECORD☒ ACCEPTED☐ REJECTED *9/28/77*

Species: CAPE MAY WARBLER

Dendroica tigrina

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 6-13-77

Time Bird Seen: 11:30 AM

to 1:00 PM

Locality: ROCKY MT NATIONAL PARK

Nearest Town: ESTES PARK

County:

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME
MARGE WOHLGEMUTHADDRESS
1935 CALVERT STTELEPHONE
213-344-8531

CURT WOHLGEMUTH

RESIDA, CA 91335

Optical Equipment: 3 BUSHNELL BINOCULARS = 10X30, 9X36, 8X36

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: CLEAR, SUN BRIGHT

Distance from bird (how measured): 50 TO 100 FT - ESTIMATE

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: MALE Plumage: BREEDING

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: QUITE ACTIVE, MOVING FROM TREE TO TREE. REMAINED IN FAIRLY LIMITED AREA OF DOUGLAS FIR. SINGING MOST OF THE TIME - USUALLY ON AN EXPOSED BRANCH AND HIGH. WOULD FREQUENTLY DISAPPEAR INTO INNER PART OF TREE. FEEDING AT INTERVALS. SINGING ENABLED US TO TRACK HIM WHEN HE WAS NOT VISIBLE. DID NOT FLYCATCH - PICKED FOOD FROM LEAVES OF FIR.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

A TYPICAL WARBLER IN SIZE, SHAPE, POINTED BILL, BEHAVIOR. SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN (AUDUBON'S) YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER IN SAME VICINITY. DARK CROWN, CHESTNUT FACE PATCH, BLACK STRIPES ON BELLY & BREAST, YELLOW THROAT, BREAST, BELLY AND AREA BELOW & BEHIND CHESTNUT FACE PATCH. LARGE, WHITE WING PATCH.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: SONG FROM PERCH - HIGH, WEAK, SWEET, INSISTENT, UNVARIABLE

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: THICK STAND OF VERY TALL DOUGLAS FIRS, THICK UNDERBRUSH WITH MANY FALLEN TREES UNDERFOOT. [SOUTH SIDE OF PAVED ROAD 0.5 miles EAST OF ENDOVALLEY CAMPGROUND. BIRD COULD BE SEEN FROM ROAD AT TIMES THOUGH MOVED FREQUENTLY TO C. 30 YARDS SOUTH OF ROAD.]

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

CHESTNUT FACE PATCH ELIMINATED ALL SPECIES INCLUDING MAGNOLIA WARBLER. HEAVY BREAST & BELLY STREAKS ~~ELIMINATED~~ AND WHITE WING PATCH ELIMINATED YELLOW WARBLER - AS DID VOICE. MALE YELLOW-RUMPED (AUDUBON'S) WARBLER WAS IN SAME AREA - WITH WHITE WING PATCH - BUT THE TWO BIRDS ARE VASTLY DISSIMILAR. PALM WARBLER WAS TAIL AND IS USUALLY ON THE GROUND OR CLOSE TO IT, LACKS FACE & WING PATCHES.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: CAPE MAY MALE SEEN ONCE IN BREEDING PLUMAGE IN NEW JERSEY. MAGNOLIA SEEN FREQUENTLY IN THE EAST. YELLOW & YELLOW-RUMPED VERY COMMON IN CALIFORNIA. PALM WARBLER SEEN SEVERAL TIMES IN CALIFORNIA.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation? ROBBINS ET AL "BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA". PETERSON'S FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BIRD SONGS. NB = BIRD WAS SHOWN TO US BY ANONYMOUS BIRDER FROM VIRGINIA WHO TAPED THE SONG AND SAID HE HAD YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH CAPE MAY WARBLERS. HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO WRITE TO HUGH KIMBERLY. HE HAD SEEN THE BIRD THE DAY BEFORE WITH A FEMALE. This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory ☒

PRINT NAME: SANDY WOHLGEMUTH SIGNATURE: Sandy Wohlgemuth DATE: 7-8-77
Street Address: 19354 CALVERT ST Town and State: RESEDA, CA ZIP: 91335

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 14450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

AND THOUGHT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THEY WERE NESTING. WE DID NOT SEE A FEMALE

accepted JR 9/28/77

CAPE MAY WARBLER - *Dendroica tigrina*
Rocky Mountain National Park
June 14, 1977

Dear DFO -

Saw a singing ♂
Cape May warbler in
Rocky Mt park 0.5 mi
above. Endorally camp
just off the main road
in tall ~~the~~ Douglas firs
on the left side of road
facing toward the
camp. (about 10 yds
from sign "Horseshoe
Park"). A Virginia
man found it & saw
a ♀ (we did not) &
guessed a nesting pair
seen 6/14/77. Told
Rangers but did not
know & how to contact
birders in Estes Park or
Denver. Lane ("Birds of
Eastern Colorado") says
only 2 previous records
for Denver area.