

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

2002-2

ACCEPTED

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Cape May Warbler

(Scientific Name) *Dendroica tigrina*

Date(s) of occurrence: 13 May 2001

Number of birds seen: 1 female

Location: Burlington Cemetery, Kit Carson County, Colorado

Length of observation: 5 minutes

Time(s) of observation: 9:30 - 9:40 am

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: None.

Conditions: Sunny, calm, about 75 degrees F.

Optical equipment used: Leica 8 x 42 binocular.

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 4 - 10 meters.

Photos: None.

Habitat: Cemetery with spruces, pines and assorted deciduous trees. I only saw the Cape May Warbler in the spruce trees.

Details:

While birding the cemetery I noticed two birds foraging near the top of one of the tallest spruce trees. I soon realized that they were a female Blackpoll Warbler and a female Cape May Warbler. The Cape May spent all the time foraging on the top 1/3 of the spruce.

Overall, the Cape May was slightly smaller than the Blackpoll Warbler, with a finer, decurved bill. Fairly short-tailed. Crown and upperparts dull green. Crown appearing slightly darker than mantle and nape. Mantle with blurry streaks. Rump greenish-yellow. Pale yellow supercilium contrasting with dark eyeline. Auriculars dull greenish-gray. Pale yellow malar extended around auriculars. Yellowish lower eye-crescent. Throat, breast and upper flanks yellowish with black streaks, fading into paler white belly and lower flanks. Wings darker gray with thin white wingbars. In flight, white tail spots observed, but not well enough to describe in detail. Eye, bill and legs appeared dark.

Similar species:

Yellow-rumped Warblers are larger, longer-tailed, with whiter underparts in all plumages, and straighter, heavier bill. Magnolia Warblers have an unstreaked yellow throat, a gray crown, lack a yellow supercilium, and black or more conspicuously streaked mantle. All but the dullest of spring Magnolia Warblers have blackish auriculars. Pine Warblers are larger, longer-tailed, bigger-billed, and lack the contrasting yellow rump.

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

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

This report is from notes made immediately after observation.

Date of written report:

Reporting observer:

Christopher L. Wood

zeledonia@msn.com

Reporting Observer's Address: 744 Mockingbird St, Apt G-205

City: Brighton

Signature:



State: Colorado

Zip: 80601