PRAIRIE WARBLER - - - - Dendroica discolor

On May 10, 1975, Colorado recorded its first Prairie Warbler, a single adult male in breeding plumage along the South Platte River at Waterton, Jefferson County. Written documentation supporting this Sight Report was received from Dr. Paul Julian of Boulder, Hugh Kingery of Denver and Allen Stokes, also of Denver. Based upon the details provided by these three observers, the CFO Official Records Committee has ruled to accept this record of the Prairie Warbler and add its name to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado (number 424).

Dr. Julian reports from notes made at time of observation: "Bird was feeding in cottonwoods in company with other warblers. Bill, actions and color all were indicative of warbler species. All yellow underparts, striped sides, wags tail. Double black face marks. (At this point I said 'Prairie Warbler'). All olive back. Hugh Kingery says to look for wing-bars. None or very faint on second look. Later look included brief instant when bird was head down with back facing me and the sun to my back. At that instant I got the impression of faint, reddish streaking. During second sighting, 40-45 minutes later, I looked again for these elusive marks but could not see them. Throat, all yellow. Underside of tail, whitish entire length. Only questionable point at the time was the lack of pronounced wingbars. Peterson and Robbins Guides portray bird with pronounced white bars. However, Griscom and Sprunt (Warblers of North America) and Bent both say bars are yellowish-white."

Hugh Kingery: "Eleary-eyed from many Yellow-rumped Warblers, I first noticed this one because it had a yellow breast with black streakings. At first I thought Magnolia, but it had no white; thereupon I guessed Prairie. After we had studied it for ten minutes, another warbler flew at it and chased it out of the tree. We lost it . . . and fifteen minutes later someone found it again. The bird was feeding in medium to small cottonwoods, at the top half. It picked off insects, contracting or pumping its tail regularly (I wouldn't call it 'wagging'). He moved constantly. not conducive to noting field marks. It had an olive back and cap, yellow face with two black horizontal streaks (I don't remember that one went through the eye or not). It also had a black spot, below these two black lines, in the cheek. It had a yellow breast with black streaks on the side, yellow throat, breast, belly, undertail coverts and had a white under side of the tail. The wings had only faint wing-bars, not at all conspicuous. The bird was the size of a Virginia's, smaller than Audubon's. We looked for the reddish streaks in the back, but I did not see any. The feeding action was distinctive - as it picked insects off the catkins it would pull the tail down contract or pump it - and stretch out again. This was a frequent action. It almost seemed like a habit the bird had to keep its balance while feeding."

Allen Stokes: "On three different occasions bird was about 30 feet above ground in cottonwoods. Bird stayed on one branch for several minutes before moving to another branch. Frequently it would bend forward being upside down on a branch. It was not easily disturbed by observers. Six inches long; warbler shape; yellow underparts, olive back, yellow head, very black streak through eye and under eye. Black streaks extending along sides from head to tail. White under tail feathers for complete length. On one of three occasions I saw a reddish blur on the back as it was tilting over on a branch toward me. I don't remember paying any attention to the bill. Wings had two faint wing-bars.

Chairman's comment: A second Prairie Warbler was reported from Boulder May 30 and 31, 1975 complete with magnificent color photographs.

August 25, 1975

Jack Riddall CHAIRMAN

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT R RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD	RECORD REPORT CFO-ORC FILE NO. N-52-51 STATE RECORD ACCEPTED REJECTED	-
Species: Prairie Warbler	Dendroica discolor	er y riberer
(Vernacular Name)	(Scientific Name-use binomial)	in the second second
LOCALLUY: Plate say	Time Bird Seen twice 0545, 0930 to total 5-10 minutes	en Interior
Nearest Town: Waterday		504" × 12
Manufacture and the international and the second and th		Witnesson
Other observers who independently ident NAME Real Kelley	ADDRESS TELEPHON	E
Other observers who independently ident NAME <u>Real Kelley</u> <u>Barts' Ferguson</u> <u>This absorver identified buil with</u> Optical Equipment: IN St. bios	ADDRESS TELEPHON. H. Kinsery and A. Stokes	E
Other observers who independently ident NAME <u>Rea Kelley</u> <u>Borts' Ferguen</u> <u>This absent identified built with</u> Optical Equipment: <u>7835 brass</u> If photographed, type of equipment used Light Conditions: <u>clear</u> brast suc	ADDRESS TELEPHON	E
Other observers who independently ident NAME <u>Real Kelley</u> <u>Barts' Ferguson</u> <u>This absorver identified buil with</u> Optical Equipment: IN St. bios	ADDRESS TELEPHON	

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Birds was feeding in Coltonwoods in company with other warbless. Bill, actions,

and ador all were indicative at bumbles species.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give paticular 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:

My notes exactly as made in field. "Ist marks, all yellow induparts, stripped sides, wares tail Thatke block for marks." [et this point I said Prairie Wardler.] "All dive back. H.K. says lock for wing bars. None or vary faint on second lock." Later look included brief instant when bird was bead down with back focing me and the sun to my back. At that instant I got the impression of faint roddish streaking. During second sighting 40-45 mindes later. I looked again for these elusive marks but could not see them. Other notes made. "Threat all yellow. Under side of tail whitish entire length."

Only questionable point at the time was the lock of pronounced wing bars. Petrisin & Rebbins Guides portray bird with pronounced white bars. However, Griscom and Sprunt (Worthers of North America) and Bent both (OVER) Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: Gilent

(cont) says bars are yellowish-white. Eckelberry's Plate in Pough 15 much closer to our hird. yellowish bars on a largely yellow + other bird work be much less noticeable.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Small cottonwoods and shrubs interspersed amons larger cottonwoods. Typical eastern slope stream bottom. Habitat strangely reminiscent of bird's Florida bebitat.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

- All yellow underprots, storped sicks, eliminate yellow throated + Grace's
- Double black face mark eliminates Cape Hay
- Lack of tail windows and strong wins bars eliminate Magnolia
 - As observer Stokes read from Robbins at the time, "This is
 - the only tail-wagging warbler with an olive back. "

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Observer Samilian with this species on its breading grounds in Florida and other eastern states.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation? Robs: Griscom + Spront, Bent, standard Field Guides

This report was written from notes made during <u>X</u> after <u>X</u> observation; from memory PRINT NAME: <u>Paul R. Julian</u> <u>SIGNATURE:</u> <u>DATE: Moy 13</u> Street Address: <u>1269 Chincols tolay</u> Town and State: <u>Boulder Co</u> <u>ZIP:</u> Return to: JACK REDDALL - Lato South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110 <u>3093</u>

,	COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD REPORT	CFO-ORC FILE NO. N-52-51 ACCEPTED REJECTED
an fai	Species: PRAIRIE WARBLER (Vernacular Name)	Dendröich discolor
		(Scientific Name-use binomial)
	Date(s): 5-10-75 yave Time Bird Se	en: 8:40 to 9:15 on three
	Locality: Along S. FORK S PLATTE H BELLOW KASSLER TREA Nearest Town: KASSLER, COLORADO	TMENT PLANC OCCASIONS
0	Other observers who independently identified this bi PAUL JULIAN 1269 Chin	
	Optical Equipment: Bushnell 7x35 Custom	BINO CULARS
	If photographed, type of equipment used: None- Light Conditions: Sum on find	
	Distance from bird (how measured): 50' Whial	ent mation
	Number of Birds Seen: Sex: Plumag	e: BREEDING
	Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: On three different occasions bird was about 30 Bird stayed on one branch for several minutes befor Frequently it would bend forward being upside down disturbed by observers.	a moving to another branch.
	Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall sh Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Gi you used to identify the bird. Reference to its rese is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the	we paticular emphasis to the marks mblance in field guide descriptions
	6" long, wonder shap, yellow underparts, ohne lo	uck, yellow had, very black
	Streak through eye and under eye. Black S	maks is cenary wing
	Dides from head to tail. White under tail fea	theis for complete Cerryth.
	on one of three accasions I saw a reddish	blur on the bruck as it
~	ordes from head to tail. White under tail fea on one of three accasions I saw a reddish was tilting over on a branch toward me. I d	los't remember paying attention
\odot		
	to the bill or wings had two faint wingbars	there are the second of the second

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: No Ne caul.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: Cottonwood trees on three occasions. # 40' from over. 30' high in thee. Other hege tation was low-scrub variety and somewhat open-

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

stricks on ordes and face stringuished it from palm would u

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

none

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation? Two other observers identified the trid and after looking in Budry North America Jaqued.

This report was written from notes made during Kafter observation; from memory PRINT NAME: Allew W. Stokes JR. SIGNATURE: allence Abtents DATE: 5-15-25 Street Address: 879 S. GAylord St. Town and State: Denver Co. ZIP: Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

	COLORADO FIELD CENTTHOI RARE OR UNUSUAL REC	OGISTS - SIG	HT RECORD REPORT NEW STATE RECORD	CFO-ORC FILE NO	
1	a				
	Species: PRAIRIE MAREI	FR emacular New	1e.)	(Scientific N	ume-use binomial)
	Locality: May 10,		Time Bird S		to <u>9:30</u>
	Nearest Town:	and a set of the set o	ananandharanan dharanan karanan karana Ananandharanan dharanan karanan karanan karana karanan karanan karanan karanan karanan karanan karanan karanan k	County:	Arapanoe
	Other observers who ind	ependently ;	dentified this h	1 md •	
	NAME Raul Julian		ADDRESS		TELEPHONE
	-Reed Kelley, 758-4144;	Boots Farcus	OOK Way B	oulder	/55-0114-1
	Optical Equipment:			manageric Stokes	ლიალმართა იკი ალ მოიმარე პა. ის მარები მემიმერი ერი მემიიმ აღეით არი თა არ იკი არი აადაადი ერე მ მის ადის ყოფლიტრიალი ა აკლესის არი რი ერი ერი ერი არი არი არი არი არი არი არი არი არი ა
	If photographed, type o Light Conditions:	f equipment	used:	m Soligor lens on Pe	ntax; 35 mm
	Distance from bird (how	measured):	2	nadiogeneitikket internetiektigeneitikensi kennetikeen angeweitiketen oftenderen. Generalij	gala gina pang ana ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang
					1 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 1
	Number of Birds Seen:	l Sex:	walk. Pluma	ge: Like adult male,	except that wing
	Describe the bird's over			bars were not co	nspicuous.
	Bleary-eyed from many Ye	llow-rumped	r and demeanor: Warblers, firs	t noticed this one b	ecause it had
	a yellow breasty at firs	t thought	Magnolia, but it	had now white; ther	eupon gulessed
	Prairie. (with blac				
	After we had studied it of the tree. We lost it	tor to minut	es, another warb	ler flew at it and c	hased it out
	finding it again. We d	idn't, until	15 m nutes late	r and several hundre	th hopes of our d vards
	downstream. The same th	inc happened	again a warble	r chased it out of a	tree and 15
	Lescrice in great detail	L the hirdle	cizo otromali al	1	
	States of the states of states	3 01 07 11 17	$n n \sigma q$ and $+ q \neq 1$	and an all the set of and	Conception of the second
	you used to identify the is not enough. Describe	what you act	cence to its rest	mblance in field gu	lde descriptions
	minutes later, someone re	oundit again			
	The bird was feeding in a	medium to sma	all cottonwoods,	at the top half. T	hey had little
	Catkins, no leaves	showing yet	. It picked off	its insects (7), co	ntractinolite Joum Bind
field	tail regularly (I wouldn It had an olive back and	cap. vellow	face with two h	ed constantly, not constantly at a	onducève to noting
marks	remember that one went th	nrough the 🛕	eve or not).	It also had a bl.	ack spot below
	these two black lines, II	n the cheek.	It had a yellow	w breast with black	streaks on the
0	side, yellow throat, brea	ast, belly, i	undertail covert	s, and has white und	er the tail.
C)	The wings had only faint The bird was the size of	wing bars, i	not at all consp	cuous	C
	The bird was the size of reddish streaks in the ba	ack, but I d	id not see any.	Augubons. We looked	tor the
	The feeding actin	a mas diet:	artiun - as it a	nicket insects off	the catkins
	it would bull the	e fail down	-contract or a	mp it - and stret	ch out asain-
	This was a free	overt act	ion. It almost	seemed like a ho	obit the bird
	had to keep	its balance	e while feed.	ng.	n
				• 200 - 200 - 20 2 - 200 - 20 - 20 	

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

No sound.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: Cottonwood river bottom of South Platte River, where it comes out of the mountains.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Marnelia has white spots in wings and tail, gray back.
Canada has necklade of black streaks on breast, gray back and face.
Kirtlands has gray back and face.
Cape Hay has red cheek and face, yellow neck patch, white in wings (male), white undertail coverts.
Yellow-thrated and Graces have gray backs, white eye stripes, white bellies.
Black-throated Green has black throat, white breast and belly.
Palm has less distinct black breast streakings, reddish, not olive, cap, less distinct facial markings.
Pine has faint, not prominent breast streakings, muddy face markings, white tail spots.

Tail-wagging, or pumping during feeding also eliminates most other species.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I've seen it in Florida some years a ago. I've seen most of the others within the past 5 years, some well, some not so well.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation? Birds of North America and Peterson's Eastern Guide consulted to discuss similar species. Birds of North America used in field to identify necessary diagnostic marks.

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

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