

Species: PRAIRIE WARBLER
 (Vernacular Name)

DENDROICA DISCOLOR
 (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 5/15-16/76 Time Bird Seen: 3:00PM 5/15 to 12:30PM 5/16 (2 hr. TOT.)

Locality: BONNY STATE RECREATIONAL AREA

Nearest Town: ITALIA County: YUMA

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>MICHAEL MOULTON</u>	<u>1328 SO. COLEMAN</u>	<u>LONGMONT, COLO. 772-0283</u>
<u>JUDD SANDINE</u>	<u>4305 E. FLORIDA</u>	<u>DENVER, COLO. 756-1116</u>
<u>MIKE MANSON</u>	<u>BOULDER, COLO.</u>	<u>449-732</u>

Optical Equipment: 7X35 BINOCULARS

If photographed, type of equipment used: 35MM w/ 400MM TELEPHOTO

Light Conditions: FAIR - EXCELLENT (VARIABLE CLOUDINESS)

Distance from bird (how measured): 15-100 FT. CAMERA RANGEFINDER

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: ADULT BREEDING

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

BIRD WAS EXTREMELY ACTIVE, AND, LIKE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENUS, WAS STRICTLY ARBOREAL. IT NEVER APPEARED LOWER THAN 5 FT. ABOVE GROUND. BIRD WAS TAME AND ALLOWED CLOSE APPROACH FOR PHOTOGRAPHS.

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:

SIZE AND SHAPE - SIMILAR TO YELLOW WARBLER

BILL - SIZE AND SHAPE OF YELLOW WARBLER, DARK COLOR
 LEGS AND FEET - BLACK

EYE - BLACKISH

CROWN, BACK, RUMP, TOP OF RETRICES, WINGS RICH OLIVE-GREEN. WINGS WITH 2 VERY NARROW AND FAINT CREAM WINGBARS. BACK WITH OBVIOUS BRIGHT CHEST-NUT STREAKING.

FACE, CHIN, THROAT, BREAST, SIDES, BELLY - BRILLIANT YELLOW (SIMILAR TO YELLOW WARBLER); FACE WITH BLACK EYELINE AND BLACK LINE BORDERING BOTTOM OF CHEEK PATCH. BLACK STREAKS ON SIDES ONLY (CENTER OF BREAST AND BELLY CLEAR YELLOW), ORIGINATING JUST IN FRONT OF WING BEND. BLACK LINES ON FACE DID NOT MEET BEHIND CHEEK.

UNDERTAIL COVERTS - PALE YELLOWISH - CREAM

TAIL WITH WHITE INNER WEBS TO OUTER RETRICES. TAIL FLASH EVIDENT WHEN TAIL FANNED (SIMILAR TO HOODED OR PROTHONOTARY WARBLER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: THE SONG WAS DELIVERED FROM AN EXPOSED PERCH. ~~SEVERAL~~ SEPARATE WHISTLES, EACH A FULL TONE ABOVE THE LAST. 5-6 NOTES/SONG, EACH ABOUT 1/2 SECOND IN DURATION. EACH SONG ABOUT 2-3 SECONDS IN DURATION. NO SPECIAL RATE OF SONGS/MINUTE.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

COTTONWOOD - WILLOW LAKE SHORELINE. MANY OF THE TREES STANDING IN WATER. BIRD NEVER OBSERVED IN WILLOW, JUST IN COTTONWOODS.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER HAS BLUE WINGS, ONLY 1 FACIAL STRIPE AND NO SIDE STREAKING

YELLOW WARBLER HAS NO BLACK FACIAL LINES AND THE STREAKING (CHESTNUT, NOT BLACK) COVERS ENTIRE BREAST.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS HAVE WHITE BELLIES AND DIFFERENT FACIAL PATTERNS, UPPER PARTS GRAY, NOT OLIVE.

KIRTLAND'S HAS DIFFERENT FACE, BLUE-GRAY UPPER PARTS AND WHITE BELLY.

PALM HAS DIFFERENT FACE, STREAKING PATTERN ON UNDER PARTS, RUSTY CROWN

THIS SPECIES IS UNIQUE IN THIS PLUMAGE, BUT THE ABOVE MENTIONED SPECIES MIGHT (JUST BARELY) BE CONFUSED.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: NO EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES, BUT THE FACE AND STREAKING PATTERNS ARE UNIQUE TO THIS BIRD.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation? THE NOTES WERE TAKEN DURING OBSERVATION AND PETERSON WAS CONSULTED LATER TO CONFIRM IDENTIFICATION.

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

PRINT NAME: PETER J. MOULTON SIGNATURE: Peter J. Moulton DATE: 5/16/76

Street Address: 1328 SO. COFFMAN #3 Town and State: LONGMONT, COLO. ZIP: 80501

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: Prairie warbler

Dendroica discolor

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 5/15/76 & 5/16/76

Time Bird Seen: 1300-1500

to 0830-1200

Locality: Bonny Res.-South shore-1.5 Km West of Dam. (Culvert)

Nearest Town: Hale, Colorado

County: Yuma

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Mike Moulton	1325 S. Coffman #3	Longmont Colorado 772-0282
Pete Moulton	1325 S. Cofman #3	Longmont Colorado 772-0283

Optical Equipment: Pencrest 7x15x35 Zoom Binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: LeicaFlex w/400mm lens

Light Conditions: Poor on both days-1/60th sec or less. Better light last hour 1/1

Distance from bird (how measured): 1.2 meters to 30 meters. Est. and w/rangefinder

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: Adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: The bird was very active; rarely staying in one place long enough to photograph it. It would hop from branch to branch; bottom of tree to the top and then back down to another tree. The bird would wag its tail back and forth once about every 2-3 seconds. The bird was not particularly bold or shy but acted indifferent. The bird, while we were observing it, made us chase it through a 100 meter long marshy draw. The bird would often 'disappear' and made itself hard to find. As soon as we sat down for awhile or came back after a half an hour or so, the bird would easily be found. The emphasis on behavior could be put on how active the bird was.

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: The reported Prairie warbler was, I guess, about 1.6 Cm in length. The bird was in exquisite adult male plumage. The black streaking on the sides contrasted the yellow underparts. At the outset, the two white wing bars were prominent. The back of the bird was olive color with chestnut streaking showing up as the light got better. There was a little white on the outer tail feathers. The one thing that clinched the identification of the bird was the face pattern. A dark line ran through the eye with another line circling under the eye. Starting from the top of the head and proceeding to the belly, one sees alternating light/dark/light/dark/light/dark/light contrast. Legs and bill was dark.

'Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: On the fifteenth of May no song was heard. On the second day, the song drew us to the bird. The song was delivered about once every twenty seconds. The bird would flit around and then stop long enough to deliver its song, usually from an exposed perch. The song was very distinctive. There were 5 to 7 notes on an ascending scale. The first two notes seemed to be on the same pitch and the others ascended and were very separate. The song lasted from 2-3 seconds. Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: The habitat consists mainly of Salix sp. most of which are 6-18 meters tall. Russian olive, Green ash and a few black walnut are scattered throughout the area. There is not a lot of understory but Sedge and Rush are abundant. The area was very wet at this time. Immediately to the South and East of the Area short-grass prairie is dominant. The area is impossible to wald into and out of without the aid of insect repellent. How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Similar species was easily eliminated because the Praire warbler is the only warbler with the distinctive cheeck pattern. There is no other warbler with a line through the eye and a line circling under the eye. The song was most helpful in the identification.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:
No prior experience with this species

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?
Birds of North America was consulted but it did no influence documentation at all

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

PRINT NAME: Judd Sundine

Street Address: 4305 E. Florida

SIGNATURE: Judd Sundine DATE: 8-12-76

Town and State: Denver

ZIP: 80222

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110