

52-93-88

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR

THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Prairie Warbler | Dendroica discolor
 (Vernacular name) | (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): September 12, 1993 Time Bird Seen: 8:15 AM to 8:30 AM

Locality: Lake Henry
Ordway Crowley County Colorado
 Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Zeiss 10-40 binocular

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: probable female Plumage: probable adult

Light conditions: Great - Bright sun east of us - bird was west of us

Distance from bird, and how measured: 15 feet estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Bird flitted about low growing shrubs near Lake Henry. It constantly wagged its tail occasionally. Flew a short distance to another shrub.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Low growing shrubs about 100 feet from Lake Henry.
Shrubs were in a depression below road grade where we
observed bird.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Bob Dickson 55 Villa Drive Pueblo CO 81001

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Small Warbler - about Wilson's Warbler size, olive green upper parts & yellow underparts. Describes overall coloration. Wings slightly browner olive with faint dull white-yellow wing bars. Yellow supercilium with gray auricular patch on face. Patch became darker toward borders & inconspicuously yellower in center. Breast & belly were bright yellow with dark streaks along flanks and sides of breast. Under tail coverts pale white-yellow contrasted with brighter yellow belly, breast, & throat.

Tail was olive green with white outer tail feathers visible when bird flew. Eye was dark, bill short, slim & dark, legs were dark. Back was olive green and unstreaked. We did not see any rusty streaking on back sometimes visible in adults in literature consulted. I could not find description distinguishing immature

males & females Prairie Warblers. I also could not find whether adults molt into a duller plumage in fall. Therefore I am not absolutely certain about age or sex of bird, but it looked most like pictures and photos of adult female.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

No sound heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Palm Warbler also wags tail, but has rusty cap and streaking across breast and not limited to flanks. Palm also has bright yellow under tail coverts. Western Palms are not as yellow on the underparts.

Most Magnolia Warblers show a breast band, bright yellow rump; Tail spots. Prairie Warbler rump was olive green; did not contrast with olive green back. It also lacked large tail spots at least on upper tail surface.

Immature Blackburnian and Townsend Warblers have yellow breasts but lighter bellies. Prairie Warblers do not have conspicuously streaked backs as do Blackburnians, nor do they have conspicuous white wingbars of Townsends & Blackburnian Warblers. These warblers do not wag tails. Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have seen many Prairie Warblers in Illinois & Florida.

I've seen many Townsend's Warblers in Colorado & West Coast. I've seen Blackburnians in Michigan & Missouri. I've seen many Palm Warblers in Florida, Missouri, & Colorado.

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

NAME (print): Dave Silverman

Mailing address: P O Box 362 Rye CO 81069

Signature: David Silverman

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

XC Hugh Kingery