

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

ACCEPT 7-0

PRAIRIE WARBLER
Dendroica discolor

Location: Valco Ponds; about 1/2 mile below the Pueblo Reservoir dam; Pueblo; Pueblo County, Colorado

Date: December 16, 1995

Brandon Percival originally found this bird about November 3, 1995. It was seen again briefly on the 4th. It was re-discovered by Bob Dickson on December 13 in the same area and then seen again on the day of the Pueblo Reservoir Christmas Bird Count. Six of us (Dickson, Hullinger, Janos, Leukering, Pantle and Percival) found the bird about 1:30 p.m. and watched it continuously for about 30 minutes. The day was overcast and the bird foraged high in leafless cottonwoods, about 20-50' up. We looked with our binoculars at distances of about 40-100'. The bird was active -- gleaning, flitting, flying from branch to branch, occasionally catching flies out of the air. It always wagged its long expressive tail back and forth or quickly bobbed it up and down. This tail-wagging behavior made the bird rather easy to locate once I became familiar with it

Description:

This bird was a small, slim, long-tailed warbler. It was an immature fall female. It had a small, sharp, pointed, dark bill. The crown, nape and face were gray, contrasting slightly with the more greenish-gray back. The back was unstreaked. The wings and tail were dusky; darker. There were no apparent wingbars. The bird was quite bright yellow below, brightest on the throat and breast and duller on the lower belly. The undertail was whitish. The flanks were streaked with dusky, or blackish, streaks. The face was mainly gray with a dark gray line through the eye. There were dull yellowish-white smudges above and below the eye on the gray face. This gave the faintest suggestion of the male Prairie's face pattern. The tail had white tail spots below. The bird gave a call note twice -- a thin, metallic chip.

Similar Species:

Kinglets and vireos lack the distinct flank streaking. Although this was a fall female, the brightness of the yellow underparts ruled out many other warblers. Orange-crowned has yellow undertail coverts, lacks the distinct flank streaks and does not wag the tail. Blackburnian can sometimes be yellow underneath but has wingbars, a distinctive face pattern and a diagnostic yellow streak across the back that this bird lacked. Magnolia has a yellow rump, lacks this face pattern and has distinct wingbars. Yellow-rumped has a yellow rump, is never bright yellow below in this plumage and lacks the face pattern. Pine never has this distinct streaks below, has whitish wingbars and does not wag its tail. Canada has a spectacled face, slate gray back, pink legs and lacks the tail wagging habits.

Experience with Species:

I have seen many Prairie Warblers -- most recently in February 1991 in south Florida.

This report is prepared from notes made immediately after observation.

Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001



COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

ACCEPT 7-0

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Prairie Warbler | Dendroica discolor
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 3 Nov 95Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male (probably) Plumage: 1st year fallLocality: 1/8 mile upstream Park lot Valco Ponds Elevation: 4600?Nearest town: Pueblo County: PuebloTime(s) observed: 10:45 - 11:15 + 13:00 - 13:30 aboutDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): up to 5 min a couple times

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Gary Conover Colo Spgs, Brandon Percival Pueblo, W.

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

all together Gary Conover Brandon Percival

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

midday (low winter height) sun - in/out of shade back andOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8x30 SLR Savranski direct light excellentDistance, and how measured: as close as 8 feet - filled bird field of view

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

feeding within Russian Olive / Tamarack & various willows up to 20 feet off ground once only, but usually ground to 3 feet. Picking insects off leaves/shrubs. Constant tail

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

bright yellow breast & belly & flanks - some winter white only center of undertail coverts size - near kinglet - smaller than yellow rump in same area. tail (under) pattern longer white windows - not alipitcal "spots" of yellow rump

Description (continued):

eye - upper & lower white eye brow / ring
but not continuous. 1 pale "white-buff" wing-
bar. Bill - warbler size & feeding behavior
tail all dark top - pumped continually and fanned
all dark top several times. wings - fanned also
all dark grey-olive except prior stated light
bar. flank - shoulder to coverts (undertail) several
2-4 distinct but light streaks - not onto breast
or belly or neck or throat - these areas paler
Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from yellow (throat)
perch, in flight, duration):

not heard or noticed

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

see behavior - near river, scrub - willow, mesquite
olive tamarisk - near cottonwood but near ground

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Palm no cap
(only other - belly breast not white nor streaked
tail pumper) not on ground as much, smaller?

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

one spring sighting ~~an~~ in Everglades
- don't remember behavior
several palm warblers in CA & other states

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this in-
fluenced your identification: Natl Geographic & Golden Field guides
and "warblers" (Curson)

a) at time of observation:

could compare coloring, flank
streaks white around eye

b) after observation: brightness consistent with male (of yellow)
elimination of all others prior to returning
to see bird

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory _____

Date and time report was written: 10 Oct 4 Nov, near Ar

Reporting observer: DAVID SMITH Signature: David Smith

Address: 808 Sirius Dr Colo Spgs CO 80906

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

ACCEPT 70

CFO-ORC-FILE# 52-95-82

COLORADO RARE BIRD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐ **RARE RECORD** ☐ **UNUSUAL RECORD** ☒

Species: *Prairie Warbler*
(Vernacular Name)

Dendroica discolor
(Scientific Name)

Dates: November 3, 1995.

Number of birds seen: one.

Sex: female.

Plumage: immature.

Locality: West of Valco Ponds, along
Arkansas River.

Elevation: 4,695.

Nearest town: Pueblo.

County: Pueblo.

Time observed: 10:45-11:15 AM and
2:15-2:30 PM.

Duration of observation: 10 minutes.

Other observers with you:

Gary Conover of Colorado Springs, CO.
David Smith of Colorado Springs, CO.

Other observers who saw the bird independently:

Bob Goycoolea saw it on 11/5.

Light conditions:

excellent, sun behind us.

Optical equipment:

10X40 Baucsh & Lomb Binoculars .

Distance from bird:

15 to 40 feet.

Describe the bird's behavior:

The bird was always seen low in the russian olives and tamarisk, near Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. The bird pumped the tail up and down for the entire time we observed the bird.

Describe the bird:

The size of the bird was about 4 3/4 inches and about 1/2 or a little more smaller than the nearby Yellow-rumped Warblers. The overall shape was typical warbler shaped. The plumage was an immature female because, immature males should show black on face, according to *The Warblers of the Americas*. The color pattern is as follows: the bill was dark. The eyes were dark. The head was grayish green with a lighter color under both eyes and a thin white eyeline over each eye going from the bill to just beyond eye. The nape was also grayish green. The back was grayish green. The wings were greenish with two small white wing bars on each wing. The tail was greenish with some white in tail. The throat was whiteish. The throat was yellow. The breast was yellow. The belly was yellow. The underparts were yellow with a small white area under the tail. The flanks were yellow with dark streaks. The legs and feet were dark. The bill shape was typical warbler shaped, small and thin. The wing's shape was typical for warblers. The tail shape was also typical warbler shaped. I identified the bird by the warbler shape, by color pattern, and by the tail pumping up and down all the time.

Describe the bird's song and call if heard:

No sounds heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

The bird was seen in both russian olives and tamarick.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

"Eastern" Palm Warbler: This species might look similar, however this species will show all yellow undertail coverts and will not be as greenish looking on the upperparts.

"Western" Palm Warbler: This species would not be all yellow underneath.

Kirtland's Warbler: This species does not show a lighter color under each eye and is not greenish above. No other warbler will pump the tail up and down like Prairie, Palm, or Kirtland's do. So this bird has to be one of them, and it turned out to be a Prairie Warbler.

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

Prairie Warbler: I have seen one previous one at Hasty Campground, Colorado on May 7, 1993. It was an adult female in breeding plumage.

Palm Warbler: I have seen seven in Colorado between 1992 and 1995 and I have seen one in Kansas in 1995.

Kirtland's Warbler: I have not seen this species.

I have seen most other warbler species that have been in Colorado, except for Cerulean, Lucy's, Hermit, Red-faced, Canada, Mourning, Connecticut, Painted Redstart, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

List books if they helped in your identification:

The Warblers of the Americas.

National Geographic Society's Bird's of North America.

This report was written from reports made during X , after observation X from memory__

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival Signature: Brandon K. Percival

Address: 835 Harmony Drive, Pueblo West, Colorado 81007-2604 (719)-547-3722