

## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

## PRAIRIE WARBLER

Dendroica discolorRed 1/20/00 wpl  
ACCEPT 7-0Location: Lamar Community College Woods = "Willow Creek"; Prowers County; near Lamar, ColoradoDate: May 8, 1999

I was leading a CFO field trip behind the Lamar Community College. A small group of visiting birders found this individual Prairie Warbler but could not identify it. Once the main group got on the bird it was very cooperative and was seen by close to 60 birders in a ten minute period, mid-morning. The day was sunny and warm with good viewing conditions. It stayed mainly in a small deciduous tree growing in the lawn adjacent to the main woodland and isolated from the riparian corridor. The bird was fairly stationary and moved little, singing repeatedly during the viewing period. The song was very distinctive and immediately recognizable: a rising series of buzzy notes "zee zee zee zee ZEEE". I observed the bird at about 20 feet with B&L Elite 10x40 binoculars. The bird had a distinctive tail-wagging behavior.

Description:

The bird was an adult male. It was small, slim, and rather long-tailed. It had a small, sharp, pointed, all-dark bill. The crown, nape and back were dull olive-gray. The back had obscure reddish streaks. The wings and tail were blackish. The bird had two dull yellowish wingbars. It was bright yellow below with distinct black flank streaking. The face was mainly yellow with a black line through the eye that connected to a black arc in front of the eye that curved down below the eye. The tail had white tail spots below.

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 wags 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 -- but only once before in Colorado.

This report is prepared from notes made immediately after observation.

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