

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

ACCEPTED

2004-81

CBRC FILE #:

RESULTS:

Species: **Prairie Warbler**

Scientific Name: ***Dendroica discolor***

Date(s) of occurrence: **May 2, 2004**

Number of birds seen: **1**

Sex: **male**

Plumage: **adult**

Exact location: **In a single flowering willow along a road heading north from A road just SE of Neeskah Reservoir**

County: **Kiowa**

Nearest town: **Lamar**

Elevation: **?**

Length of observation: **ca. 5 minutes**

Time(s) of observation: **around noon**

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **Joey Kellner, Norm Erthal, Paul Differding (sp?)**

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): **bird was found by Glenn Walbek, Gregg Goodrich and Loch Kilpatrick**

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: **Sky was clear; sun was overhead. Bird was more or less east/northeast of our position.**

Optical equipment used: **Pentax 8x42 binoculars**

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): **15 feet**

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? **not by us**

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: **The bird was found earlier that morning feeding in the same tree where we saw it: a single flowering willow, about 12 feet tall, in an area of knee-high dead wood and dried-out cattails along the road. Several very large cottonwoods and a thicker grove of young cottonwoods were less than a quarter mile away, but as Joey pointed out, the blooming willow was attracting a large number of flying insects, which seemed to keep the warbler happy.**

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: **The bird was foraging very actively in all parts of the tree, from about 5-12 feet off the ground. It never sat still for very long. It appeared to be interested in flying insects and made a few 4-6 inch flycatching attempts.**

DESCRIPTION – **The bird was bright yellow below, brighter on the throat. Heavy black streaks ran down the sides of the breast onto the flanks, but there were none in the center of the breast. The undertail was white. The back seemed gray-greenish but did not strongly contrast with the breast; I couldn't see any chestnut streaks, but views of the back were not optimal. The face had the familiar black "stirrup" pattern: a yellow triangle outlined by black on the cheeks. The bill was short, thin, pointed and black.**

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: **The bird was singing often. Most strophes were similar: a series of 5-6 extremely high thin whistles, each slightly (i.e. less than a half tone) higher than the last, in strict rhythm, ca. 6 notes/second without pause; last note quite buzzy, toneless. Bird also once sang a slightly more complicated alternate song.**

SIMILAR SPECIES – **The bird was immediately recognizable as a Prairie Warbler. No other warbler has the combination of entirely yellow underparts with black flank streaking, low contrast between breast and back, and the unique face pattern.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **I have seen Prairie Warbler in perhaps ten locations, including a couple places where they were common (i.e., Texas, Arkansas) but have not seen one in about three years.**

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): **I consulted Sibley as I was writing this report to check the veracity of my field notes and found them to be completely in line with his illustrations.**

This report was made from (check one) _____ notes made during observation ☒ notes made after observation _____ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: **May 5, 2004**

Reporting observer: **Nathan Pieplow**

Signature:

Reporting observer's address: **4745-B White Rock Circle**

City: **Boulder**

State: **CO**

Zip: **80301**

Telephone: **(303) 245-8421**

email: **npieplow@indra.com**

Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601