

Lakewood, Colo.  
Oct. 1, 1974

## MEMORANDUM

To: David Hutchinson, Editor of "Lark Bunting"  
with copy to Jack Reddall, Chairman CFO Records Committee ✓

From: John R. Cooper

Subject: Bay-breasted Warbler observed in Lakewood

Joyce and I identified a Bay-breasted Warbler, Dendroica castanea, September 23 and 29, 1974 at 1005 Field street, Lakewood, Jefferson County, Colorado. The bird was observed between 10:00 and 10:45 AM MDT Sept. 28 through 7x35 and 10x50 binoculars at a distance of 20 ft (lower limit of 10x50 focus) to about 100 ft (estimated). Most of this time the bird was less than 50 ft away feeding in a hackberry tree in bright sunshine from our backs. It kept moving almost constantly as warblers do but was less fidgety and more restricted in its movements than the Orange-crowned Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the same tree. It flew out of the tree several times when bothered by other birds but soon returned. The bird was about the same size and shape as the Orange-crowned Warbler with a long slender warbler-type bill. Wings almost black with 2 conspicuous white wing bars. Tail almost black with 2 large white spots on lower surface. Back olive gray with dark brown streaks, streaks not extending across olive gray rump. Head essentially same color as back with white eye line. Breast, belly and undertail coverts unstreaked buffy white with pale but distinct "bay" on sides and flanks (in field color seemed to us pinkish or rusty). These data are probably enough to identify the bird as a ~~female~~ Bay-breasted Warbler in fall plumage, but we had not previously seen the species in this plumage and later did considerable checking in field guides and other reference books. From this it seemed desirable to obtain further information on leg and head coloration if possible. However the bird could not be found again that day. Fortunately it returned to the same tree about 1:00 PM MDT Sept. 29 when we saw the legs were blackish, the crown lacked perceptible "bay" being olive gray with fine streaks of dark brown, eye-brow line nearly white, lores and eye line dark, Ear patch olive gray without other marks. These features confirm the Bay-breasted identification. The small size, long slender bill, big white tail spots and wing bars limit the possibilities to a part of the warbler tribe and the Bay-breasted is the only one of these that will fit. The fall Blackpoll lacks the "bay" sides and has yellow legs and streaked underparts. The Blackburnian has an orange or yellow breast and dark streaks not "bay" on sides. The Pine has a plain back in all plumages, etc., etc.

John R. Cooper