

## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

ACCEPT 7-0

BAY-BREASTED WARBLERDendroica castaneaLocation: Lake Henry; Ordway; Crowley County, ColoradoDate: May 28, 1995Setting:

I birded the grove on the north side of Lake Henry from 7:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. this day. This was a fantastic day with several good warblers (Golden-winged, Mourning, Parula, Blackpoll, Nashville, Redstart, Waterthrush) and other birds (Great-crested Flycatcher, "Baltimore" Oriole, Veery). I found this bird at the eastern edge of the grove at 8:40 a.m.. I wore my rubber boots and waded about a couple hundred yards into an area where all the trees were partially submerged. I had been "pishing" and a female Northern Parula came down to investigate me. When I turned to leave I discovered that a male Bay-breasted was checking me about behind me. I watched it for about 15 minutes. It was about 25-50' away and feeding lower down, at heights of 6-15 feet. I returned with Miriam Friggenes at 9:30 a.m. and re-found the bird. This time we watched it for about ten minutes as it foraged high up in these medium-sized partly submerged cottonwoods. It was at distances of 25-75 feet. Both times the bird was rather tame and unconcerned with our presence making it easy to observe. I watched it with my B & L Elite 10x40 binoculars. The light was excellent. This bird was silent.

Description:

The bird was a male in breeding plumage. It was small and slender, about 5" long. It was small, even for a warbler, with a short, thin tail. It was overall a dark, but distinctively marked, warbler. Miriam remarked that "it looked like someone had started to paint it but had quit before they were done". The bird had a black face and a deep chestnut-colored crown, chin, throat, breast and flanks. The rest of the underparts (lower breast, belly and undertail coverts) was light tan. There was a small cream-colored patch at the sides of the neck, behind the black face. The back was gray, streaked length-wise with black. The wings were blackish with two white wingbars.

Similar Species:

The small, slim size and sharp little bill indicate a warbler. No other warbler really has this pattern. Golden-winged is white below with a large yellow wing panel. Blackburnian is orange and white below with black flank streaks and a complex black and orange face pattern. Chestnut-sided is white below with chestnut flanks and yellowish crown. Cape May is yellow with black streaks below and with a large white wing panel. Other Dendroicas are black, white and/or yellow and lack the chestnut, black and cream pattern.

Experience with Species:

I have seen many Bay-breasted Warblers before, including three others in Colorado since 1988.

This report was prepared from notes made during and immediately after observation.

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