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Date: Tue, 19 Jan 1999 17:50:37 -0700

From: "Brandon K. Percival" <flammowl@juno.com> [Add to Address Book](#)

Subject: Rare bird form

To: rednot@hotmail.com

CFO-RC-FILE

#: 1998-~~009~~⁻⁹⁷

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results: _____

ACCEPTED (7-0)

Species: Bay-breasted Warbler Dendroica
castanea
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s) of Occurrence: May 23 & 24, 1997.

Number of birds seen: one.

Sex: female.

Plumage: dull, most likely a first spring female.

Exact Locality: Lamar Community College grove.

County: Prowers.

Nearest town: Lamar.

Elevation: unknown.

Length of Observation: 5 to 10 minutes on May 23 and 10 to 15 minutes on May 24.

Time(s) of Observation: late afternoon on May 23 and early morning on May 24.

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Drew Smith, Dave Leatherman, Scott Seltman.

Light conditions [Quality: Direction relative to bird(s) position]: Excellent.

Optical equipment used: 10x40 B & L Custom binoculars.

Distance from bird (Estimated unless otherwise noted): 10 to 25 feet up in tree.

Describe the bird's behavior: The bird stayed in the cottonwood trees along Willow Creek, behind Lamar Community College grove. The bird was with Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Describe the bird: The size was about the same as the nearby Yellow-rumped Warblers. The shape of the bird was of a small song bird. The bird was a warbler because of size (small song bird), shape (thin pointed bill and an active bird), and color (with wing bars). The plumage was of a first spring female, because it was very dull without any color of bay on the flanks and no bright colors on the head. The head was dull greenish/gray with blackish streaks from the forehead to the nape. The cheek patches were dull greenish/gray, lighter than head. The bird had no noticeable eye lines, eye stripes, or eye rings. The throat color was off white with a little light buff color. The flanks were off white, with no bay color. The underparts were all off white, including the under tail coverts. The wings were blackish with two solid white wing bars on each wing, which were very distinctive. The back was greenish/gray with black streaks. The rump color was gray. The tail was

darker than the rump, a brownish/black color. As this bird was so dull, it took a little time to identify it. [One week before, I saw another female Bay-breasted Warbler, except that bird was a little more colorful and had bay color on the flanks.] On the dull bird, I believed it was either a Blackpoll or Bay-breasted Warbler. I was able to see the dark legs and feet, which made me identify the bird as a Bay-breasted Warbler.

Also, the back had streaks, which eliminated Pine Warbler. On Thursday evening (May 23), Drew Smith also saw the bird and he agreed with the identification. On Friday morning (May 24), Drew Smith, Dave Leatherman, and Scott Seltman all saw the bird. The color of the eyes were black. The bill was short, thin, and pointed like all warblers. The color of the bill was light and not all dark. The legs and feet were all dark and were not yellow like Blackpoll Warbler. The tail seemed short. I am completely sure that the bird I have described for you, is a Bay-breasted Warbler. This is the second one I have seen during May 1997.

Describe the bird's song and call if heard: None heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: The bird was always in the tall cottonwood trees along Willow Creek, behind Lamar Community College grove.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

Blackpoll Warbler: This species has yellow feet and legs and the colors are different.

Pine Warbler: This species has an un-streaked back.

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

Bay-breasted Warbler: I had seen four previous Bay-breasted Warblers in Colorado before this sighting.

Blackpoll Warbler: I have seen several in Colorado.

Pine Warbler: I have seen three in Colorado.

List books if they helped in your identification: None needed.

This report was written from notes taken:

X during, X and after observation. or from memory__.

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival

Signature: _____

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