

#. 1998-127

ACCEPTED (70)

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

rec'd 8-9-98 ✓

Results: 1998Species: Bay-breasted Warbler
(Common Name)Dendroica castanea
(Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: May 16, 1997.

Number of birds seen: one.

Sex: female.

Plumage: first spring, bright bird.

Exact location: Lake Henry grove.

County: Crowley.

Nearest town: Ordway.

Elevation: about 4,300 feet.

Length of observation: five minutes.

Time(s) of Observation: 0800 to 0805.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Bob Dickson, 55 Villa Dr., Pueblo, CO.

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): none.

Light conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s); position]: excellent, sunny.

Optical equipment used: 10X40 Baucsh & Lomb Binoculars.

Distance from bird (estimated unless otherwise noted): 20 feet.

Was the bird photographed: no.

If so, have you submitted photos? no.

Who took the photographs? n/a.

Describe the bird's behavior: I first noticed a bird near a female Hooded Warbler, the bird flew up to the cottonwood trees, so I quickly went over to where I saw the bird fly and I found it, and it was a female Bay-breasted Warbler. Bob Dickson came over and also saw it. The bird was first near the ground and then up in cottonwood trees.

Describe the bird: The size was about the same as the more common Yellow-rumped Warblers and a touch bigger than the female Hooded Warbler next to it. The shape was of a small song bird. The bird was a warbler because of size (small songbird), shape (thin bill active bird), and color (with wing bars). The plumage was of a first spring female, because it had quite a bit of bay color feathers on the flanks, though not as much as an adult female. Also, it did not show any bright color on the crown. The head was dull greenish/gray with blackish streaks from the forehead to the nape. The cheek patches were dull greenish/gray, lighter than the head. I did not notice any eye line, eye stripe, or eye rings on the bird. The back was greenish/gray with black streaks. The throat color was light buff. The flanks had a patch of bay color on both sides of the bird. Bay color meaning chestnut/orange color. The underparts were all off white, including under tail coverts. The wings were blackish with two solid white wing bars on each wing, which were very distinctive. The rump color was gray. The tail was darker than the rump, a brownish/black color. I identified the bird by its warbler shape, and size, and colors. I quickly came up with the bird being a Bay-breasted Warbler, because of the black feet (eliminating Blackpoll), streaked back (eliminating Pine), and the patch of bay color on each flank. The eye color was black. The bill was short, thin, and pointed like all warblers. The color of the bill was light and not all dark like some warblers. The legs and feet were all dark and were seen well. The tail was ^{short} ~~dark~~. I made sure the feet were not yellow like a Blackpoll Warbler. I had great views of the bird and am completely certain that the bird was a Bay-breasted Warbler.

Describe the bird's songs and calls if heard: none heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: The bird was observed in a grove of trees on the north west side of Lake Henry. The bird was seen mostly in the cottonwood trees.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

Blackpoll Warbler: This species has yellow feet, it is mostly white underneath (not off white), and is not as greenish as the bird I saw.

Pine Warbler: This species has a plain green back without streaks and also should show some yellow on the throat.

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

Bay-breasted Warbler: I have seen two males and one immature female in Colorado before this observation.

Blackpoll Warbler: I have seen 11 males, three females, and one immature in Colorado before this observation.

Pine Warbler: I have seen three immature birds in Colorado from 1988-1993. I have also seen adults singing in Texas in March of ~~1994~~ 1996.

List books if they helped in your identification: I looked at the National Geographic Society's Birds of north American after the sighting. It did not influence me. I had already identified the bird has a Bay-breasted Warbler.

This report was written from notes taken during X, or after observation X or from memory .

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival Signature: Brandon K. Percival

Address: 835 Harmony Drive, Pueblo West, Colorado 81007-2632 (719)-547-3722.