

1998-128

ACCEPTED (7-0)

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Bay-breasted Warbler

Number: 1 first fall female

Location: Crow Valley Campground, Weld County, CO

Habitat: deciduous trees

Date: 5 September 1998

Time: 8:34-8:45 a.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 ½ West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird(s): none

Description of bird(s): I was birding along the south edge of the area when I heard a loud, distinctive chip note from a nearby tree. I quickly located the bird and identified it as a fall female Bay-breasted Warbler. Compared to Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers in the same area, this bird appeared slightly larger and fed more slowly. The stout bill was dark with some pale color at the base. The only distinct mark on the face was the presence of yellow eye crescents. The crown, mantle, and rump were bright olive and there was some faint, dark streaking on the mantle. The latter markings were not as prominent as those of adult Bay-breasted Warblers, several of which I observed in Iowa <2 weeks earlier. The wings were dark with two prominent white wing bars. The throat was white and the underparts were fairly bright yellow and unstreaked. The vent was buff colored. The flanks were buffy and lacked the bright chestnut color. From underneath, the undertail coverts extended to a point at least three-fourths the length of the rectrices. The outer rectrices were marked with white along the outer edges and at the tip (the specific pattern was hard to see well). I aged the bird as a probable first-fall female on the basis of the buffy flanks (not chestnut) and less distinct streaking on the mantle.

Similar species and how eliminated: The most similar warblers would be fall Pine and Blackpoll Warblers. The streaked mantle, indistinct face pattern, less white in the rectrices, and bolder white wing bars eliminated Pine Warbler. The combination of buffy flanks and undertail coverts, bulkier appearance, unstreaked flanks, less distinct face pattern, and appearance of a stockier bill eliminate fall Blackpoll Warbler.

Previous experience with species: I am very familiar with fall Bay-breasted Warblers from birding in Iowa where I have occasionally seen >100 in a fall season. I am also familiar with fall Blackpoll Warblers from work in North Carolina.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with mostly clear skies. Estimated viewing distance was mostly in the range of 5-20m. I used 10x42 binoculars.

References consulted: Dunn and Garrett Warblers

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? written 5 September 1998