

Sight Record Report

52-75-134

Accepted JR 11/6/75

Please fill out as accurately as possible. Include only those details of which you are certain and only those observed in the field; leave blank details not observed. Attach any additional comments or details on separate sheets. Please print or type

Species Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) Date(s) 12 Sept. 1975
 Location Crow Valley Park, Briarsdale, Weld
 County Weld State Colorado Elevation _____
 Observer Van Remsen Number of birds 1
 Time of Day 1030, 1100, 1615 Light conditions good - high overcast
 Distance to bird 10-40' Optical equipment 10x50 binocs
 Length of time observed 10 minutes total
 Sex ♀ Plumage (e.g. Breeding) "gray"
 Overall appearance and relative size - A large, slow-moving Dendroica with no bright colors.

Bill warbler-type

Crown and forehead dull brownish-gray

Nape

Face pale eyestripe connecting to partial eye-ring above eye
below eyeline - whitish

Eye dark

Throat whitish

Breast and sides grayish-white with a small obscure spot of dull yellow in center of breast; extremely faint trace of streak on sides of breast

Belly and flanks grayish-white with very faint trace of yellowish on ~~and~~ flanks

Undertail coverts grayish

Back uniform brownish-gray with slight green tinge - definitely no stripes - this was clearly seen

Wings dark with 2 broad white wingbars

Underwings not seen

Rump not seen

Under tail coverts

Underside of tail ^{dull} whitish spots on dull background

Legs dark

Behavior

The slowest, most sluggish warbler I've ever seen - it deliberately made its way along medium size branches, hopping on the branch itself and using adjacent twigs, probing and picking the bark surfaces. None of the rapid, flitting motions characteristic of most warblers. All three times it was seen, it was associating with a White-breasted Nuthatch.

Voice silent

Habitat Chinese elm - cottonwood - willow grove in middle of short-grass prairie

How identification was decided - elimination of similar species

vs. Blackpoll Warbler - fall imm. - this bird had no streaks on back; back was much duller and grayer than the usual green-backed Blackpoll; fall Blackpolls are usually strongly streaked on sides of breast; breast and throat of fall imm. is usually more or less streaked; fall Blackpolls very different - rapid movements; always clean white - not dirty gray like this.

vs. Bay-breasted Warbler fall imm. - has streaks on back; back greener; undertail coverts buffy to dull yellowish - not gray; most of chest usually pale yellow; even imm. fall ♀♀ usually have some trace of "bay" on flanks; may occasionally forage on branches and is somewhat sluggish but not to the extent that this bird was. Before I finally got to see the back well, I was calling the bird a Bay-breasted, but the whiteness of the undertails bothered me.

Lack of streaks on back, clean whiteness of undertails, etc. behavior convinced us that it was a fine. There were a couple of specimens of fall White-throats in the area at the time, which had the same general coloration as the spot of yellowish on the sides of the breast, but the undertails were not so clean white.

vs. Imm. Chestnut-sided - bright green back, complete absence of streaks on back.

vs. Yellow-throated Vireo - white under bill; streaked on the back and sides; chest and throat

note - fine warblers in southeast apparently often associate with nuthatches and do lots of bill glancing. (I read that in the book "The Birds of North America".)

Prior experience with this species once in (breeding plumage ♂) 1965

This description written from ☐ notes made during observation
☒ notes made after observation
☐ memory

Others seeing the bird (addresses of two):

John Cooper, 1041 Field St., Lakewood

Signed

Van Pelt

Date

17 Sept. 1975