

52-94-69

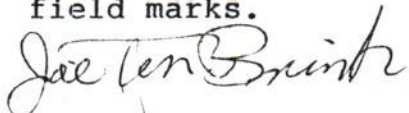
ACCEPTED

Pine Warbler Sighting
by Joe TenBrink

On September 16, 1994, I saw an indescrpt looking warbler at the Morgan Smith Wildlife Preserve - on the South Platte River just west of Brighton, Colo. It was foraging low in a Russian Olive tree. I manouvered myself to the sun side and about 15 feet away from the tree, made myself comfortatble and broke out my note-pad.

The bird was in and out of the rather thick foliage and remained still only briefly. I almost sloughed it off as an Orange-crowned, but the wing bars on this bird, although faint, are not an Orange-crowned characteristic. And it's bill seemed a bit large.

I squatted next to another olive tree trying to be inconspicuous and took note of everything I could see about the bird. Most of the time when the bird emerged from the thick foliage it was no more than 15 feet away. It's crown, nape and back were brown with a greenish tinge and I could discern no streaking. Wings were about the same color as the back, the wing bars on the greater coverts more prominent than those on the lesser coverts. A faint (but discernable) ear patch. Bill larger than most warblers. Throat yellowish merging to white, faintly streaked, belly. Tail dark with white unmarked undertail coverts. The bird stayed in this tree for an estimated 30 minutes and gave me many opportunities to double check it's field marks.



Joe TenBrink

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

52-94-69

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

ACCEPTED

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Pine Warbler / Dendroica pinus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): September 16, 1994

Number of birds seen: One (1) Sex: Male Plumage: Immature

Latilong: _____ Distribution Code: _____ Habitat Code: _____

Locality: Morgan Smith Wildlife Preserve | Elevation: 5000 feet

Nearest town: Brighton County: Adams

Time(s) observed: 10:00 AM

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): about 30 mins.

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Bright sunny at my back

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Swift 8.5x 44 Binocular

Distance and how measured: About 15 ft. a little more than twice
my lenth

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird: _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): It stayed low in the tree foraging continuously. Occasionally remained sill for a moment. Disappeared in the thick foliage of the lower part of the tree at times.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

Crown nape and back brown with greenish tint and no streaks. Two wing bars. Hint of an ear patch. Bill proportionally large. Throat dull yellow. Belly white with faint streaks. Undertail white and unmarked.

coverts

Description (continued):

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Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Faint chip notes

(Hearing aids)

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian. near swamp. This area has a mixture of trees and bushy growth. Just off (30ft) the river.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Lack of streaking on upperparts - (not even faintly) would

eliminate immature Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warbler

I never got a good look at the undertail to determine if it

had white marks. White unmarked undertail coverts determined by side views.

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

I have seen Pine Warblers 3 times well. The last was the

one that wintered in Boulder last year.

List books, illustration, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) At time of observation: National Geographic field guide

Peterson Western Birds & Advanced Birding-Kaufman, Aud.

b) After observation: Enc. N.A. Birds.

This report was written from reports made during During, after observation, from memory

Date and time report was written: Sept. 16, 1994 - 7:00 PM

Reporting observer: Joe TenBrink

Signature:

Joe TenBrink

Address: 6801 E Miss Ave A302 - Denver, CO 80224

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205