

1997-90
ACCEPTED 7-0

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

PINE WARBLER

Dendroica pinus

Location: Valco Ponds; Pueblo County; Pueblo, Colorado

Date: December 7, 1997 - January 11, 1998

This bird was discovered on 12/5/97 by Brandon Percival. My primary observation described here was from 12/7/97. I observed the bird at very close range on a number of other occasions, all the way through to January 1998. It was observed by scores of birders, including Bob Dickson, David Silverman, Duane Nelson and many others.

This bird ranged along the Arkansas River near the Valco Ponds area below Pueblo Res. This is a riparian corridor with many tall cottonwoods and brushy tangles. On 12/7/97 the bird was foraging high in the cottonwoods. It did this by gleaning from larger branches. It walked along medium to small limbs, somewhat Black-and-White Warbler or nuthatch-like, but did not work vertical trunks, nor hang from bark. None-the-less, in the first few days of observation the bird fed mainly by bark gleaning. Later in its stay it was seen feeding together with many wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers. It often worked the mossy rocks along the Arkansas River, walking on the ground somewhat like a pipit; or it flew up and caught midges in the Russian olives or heavy brush along the river edge. This bird was photographed and seen at quite close range (15-75 feet). I even observed it in my scope on two occasions (Kowa TSN-4 20-60x). I watched it for a total of about 45 minutes on 12/7/97 when the light was excellent and high (about 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.) This was not a terribly active warbler, and so was sometimes hard to discover. It sometimes weakly pumped its tail, Palm Warbler-like, but this was not a very noticeable trait. It occasionally emitted a faint, single, sweet chip note, that was a little junco-like.

Description:

The bird was an immature fall male. Overall it was small and plump, about 5" long, with a long, thin tail. The bill was fairly straight, thin, sharp and black. The legs and feet were grayish-pink. The upperparts were olive with a brownish tinge. The back was unstreaked. The wings were much darker than the back -- dusky brown or blackish. The face was greenish and rather plain, with a thin, clear yellow spectacle that was most apparent at close range. The underparts (chin, throat, breast and flanks) were a fairly bright yellow, especially on the throat. The flanks were obscurely streaked dusky; with very faint streaks or mottling nearly across the breast (apparent only at close range). The lower flanks were browner than the sides of the breast. The undertail coverts and vent were whitish. The undertail was white. The wings had two distinct white wingbars, the anterior one smaller than the posterior one.

Similar Species:

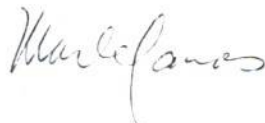
The small, slim size and sharp little bill indicate a warbler. No other warbler really has this pattern. The quite bright yellow underparts eliminate many other species. Blackpoll might be almost this yellow but would have paler legs, streaked back and heavier streaking underneath. Bay-breasted lacks the yellow tones and flank streaking. Palm lacks the wingbars, is an active tail wagger and has a pale supercilium. Prairie has yellow undertail coverts and lacks the white wingbars. Townsend's and similar have yellow faces with a dark eye patch, dark legs and feet, heavily streaked flanks and shorter tails.

Experience with Species:

I have seen many Pine and similar warblers before, including two others in Colorado.

This report was prepared from notes made during and immediately after observation.

Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001



✓ rec'd 3/98

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

SIGHT RECORD FORM

RESULTS: _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES: Pine Warbler Dendroica pinus
(COMMON NAME) (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: 1-11-98 and 1-18-98NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: one SEX: ? immature PLUMAGE: immature moltingEXACT LOCATION: Both 1-11 & 1-18 approx 300 yds east of Valerius parking lot AT BEND
IN S. PLATTE NEXT to RND #3 in R. OLIVE & willow & cottonwood TREESCOUNTY: Pueblo NEAREST TOWN: Pueblo ELEVATION: 5000LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 1) 20 mins 2) 10 min TIMES(S) OF OBSERVATION: 1-11) 08:15 - 08:35 1-18) 08:45 - 08:55OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):
1-18) DAVE QUEENBERRY 6254 S ELMIRA CIR Englewood CO 80111 3037967603LIGHT CONDITIONS [QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION]:
1-11) clear, cold 20's, Light west wind - Sun behind OBSERVERS BACK1-18) clear cold 25's, west wind 10-15 mph Sun in varying positions, mainly to the
Right of observer / BirdOPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: Zeiss 10x40Kowa 10

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED):

1-11) 20 FEET1-18) 100 feet to 70 ydsWAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED: NO IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? _____

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? _____

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

River edge riparian growth consisting of willow sp (to 10' tall), Russian Olive
(to 40') and cottonwood (to 100') - with dense undergrowth of grass and weeds

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

1-11) The bird was seen foraging in willow, olive trees with other warblers (Y.R.)
And then perched on a horizontal willow (sp) branch sunning itself
in the early morning sun for approx 10 mins. I left the bird
at this point.1-18) The bird was seen foraging in willow (sp), R Olive & cottonwood trees
with other warblers (Y.R. & Palm) on both sides of the S. PLATTE RIVER

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE, AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS, AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES, OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

MEDIUM size warbler with wing BARS

B. 11 - ~~WARBLER~~ BILL - upper black lower black tipped - pale at Base

Head - GREENISH brown. Face & crown extending into nape & back becoming more brownish
VERY faint paler supercilium

EYE - DARK

* THROAT - Bright yellow

* Body - yellow of THROAT EXTENDED to BREAST AND 1/2 of belly

CAUDAL Aspect of belly & UNDERTAIL COVERTS white

BACK - GREENISH brown - UNSTREAKED
white

* Wings - two prominent wing BARS the second more washed out.

- 1 wing lacks greenish tone of BACK & NAPE more of
gray brown color.

Tail - similar to color of wings - undertail with two white patches

Legs - black

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

① Yellow Throated Vireo - This Bird lacked the yellow speculums in wings, AND VIREO BILL TYPE

② Fall Blackpoll - HAVE PALE OR STAIN colored LEGS

③ Fall Barn-Breasted - Very difficult. This bird had strong contrast between FACE & Throat colors, Gray BARS
Tend to blend; UNSTREAKED BACK AND Lots of white on under

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

Fairly common and often observed warbler in both Minnesota & Florida

I probably see 50-70 individuals per year. However Fall Birds can be very difficult to separate.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

Birds of NA. NAT GEO

Warblers of Americas Carson, Quinn, Bendire

Warblers (PFG) Dunn/Barrett

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING _____ OR AFTER _____
OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY X.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 3-11-98

REPORTING OBSERVER: Ric Olson

SIGNATURE: ROL

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3037907753

SEND REPORT TO: MARK JANOS, 10 SEDUM COURT, PUEBLO, CO 81001