

Pine Warbler
10 Jan 1992
Pleasantville, Marion Co., IA
#Schantz, *Kent, *Proescholdt, *Johnson
IBL 62:57, 63:70, Schantz and Black 1993

Record Number: 92-08
Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATIONS

Thomas H. Kent, 12 Jan, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246
Mark Proescholdt, 1 Feb, Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148
Ann Johnson, 3 Feb, 532 120th Ave., Norwalk, IA 50211

PHOTOGRAPH

Tim Schantz, 10 Jan, P-0317 (IBL 63(3) cover)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 62:57
Photograph: IBL 63(3) cover (P-0317)
Records Committee: IBL 63:70

Schantz, T., and G. Black. 1993. A wintering Pine Warbler in Marion County. IBL 63:81-82.

VOTE: 2 A-P, 5 A-D

A-D, Documentations eliminate other warbler and vireo species. The photograph was suggestive but not diagnostic on its own.

A-D, Good details provided for a Pine Warbler.

REVOTE: 7 A-P

A-P, In Advanced Birding (page 238), Kauffman lists 6 characteristics to help identification of fall Pine Warblers. If applied to the picture, only one of six characteristics can definitely be determined from the photo: (1) Back unstreaked -- cannot see in photo; (2) face pattern with noticeable cheek patch -- yes; (3) extensive white belly and undertail coverts -- maybe but hard to determine in photograph; (4) tertial edgings dull -- cannot see in photo; (5) legs dark, toes/soles pale -- cannot see in photo although the toes do look pale; (6) breast color variable -- picture falls within range of variation. The face pattern fits very well the description given by Kauffman (page 235) including the pale supercillium, dark lores, and pale crescent below the eye. However, Kauffman cautions against using face pattern as the sole determinant. Despite the above, I don't have any doubts that this bird is a Pine Warbler, but my decision is based more on the documentations and date than this picture. This is a perfect example of a photograph which supports and strengthens the written documentation but it is doubtful that alone it is diagnostic.

A-P, A fine photo of a Pine Warbler!

92-08

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Summer 1993 Volume 63 Number 3



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Lapland Longspur: The high count was 500 n of Mason City on 29 Mar (CRN). The few reports were from 26 Mar to 2 Apr, suggesting that birds passed through the state more quickly than usual.

Smith's Longspur: The only report was of 1 n of Mason City on 31 Mar (CRN, details).

Snow Bunting: Flocks of 100 were noted in Kossuth Co. on 2 Mar (MCK) and in Marshall Co. on 22 Mar (MPR). Late birds were in Grundy Co. on 26 Mar (MPR) and n of Mason City on 1 Apr (CRN) [3rd latest].

Bobolink: The first was at Hickory Hill P. on 2 May (DRP).

Red-winged Blackbird: 2,000 females (no males) were at Pickerel L. in Buena Vista Co. on 16 Apr (MMB).

Eastern Meadowlark: 1 was singing at Red Rock Res. by 21 Mar (JSi).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 65 were at Otter Creek M. by 22 Apr (DRP).

Rusty Blackbird: The high count was 200 in Appanoose Co. on 14 Apr (RLC).

Brewer's Blackbird: Details were given for 6 at McIntosh Woods on 27 Mar (JLW) and 8 s of Granger on 21 Apr (MPR).

Great-tailed Grackle: The first male was at Lakin Sl. on 21 Apr (MPR). The first for Cherokee Co. were a pair nesting on 19 May at Redtail Ridge Access (DBi, MMB). Others were 7 at Long Pond on 25 and 28 Apr (AMJ, MPr, PHA, RIA-photo), 6 at IPL Ponds on 9 May (BKP/LJP), 1 at Otter Creek M. on 13 May (THK), and 4 at Goose L. in Greene Co. on 22 May (JJD).

Orchard Oriole: The first was in Cass Co. on 7 May (MAP). There were seven reports from the eastern half of the state where this species is relatively less common than in the west.

Northern Oriole: The first were on 28 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ, DRP). A "Bullock's" Oriole was in Clemons in Marshall Co. on 12 May ("HH").

Purple Finch: The last were 3 at Hickory Hill P. on 3 May (DRP).

Pine Siskin: Several were in Ames on 23 May (Mark Widrechner fide JJD). Eight other observers reported last sightings from 5 to 17 May.

CONTRIBUTORS

* = documentation only

Carol A. Alexander (CAA), Fairfield; Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Dick Bierman (DBi), Cherokee; Gordon J. Brand (GJB), Newton; Tanya E. Bray (TEB), Bellevue, NE; Marion M. Brewer (MMB), Cherokee; Ken Brock (KB), Gary, IN; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; James Durbin (JaD), Marion; Joyce Durbin (JoD), Marion; Bruce Ehresman (BEh), Boone; Bery Engebretsen (BEh), Des Moines; Peter Erzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita A. Goranson (RAG), Mason City; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Bill F. Huser (BFH), Sioux City; Holly Humpal (HH), Clemons; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Sharon R. Laub (SRL), Rippey; Fred Leshner (FL), La Crosse, WI; Paul Martsching (PM), Ames; Curt R. Nelson (CRN), Mason City; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; D. Randall Pinkston (DRP), Iowa City; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; B. J. Rose (BJR), Omaha, NE; Tim Schantz (TSc), Knoxville; James E. Scheib (JES), Iowa City; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Darrin Siefken (DSi), Tripoli; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Thomas J. Staudt (TJS), Marble Rock; Dennis Thompson (DTh), Johnston; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Jan L. Walter (JLW), Mason City; and Hank Zaletel, (HZ), Colo.

COMMENT

The number of records entered into the computer database (1,573) was up 18% from two years ago, and the number of observers (48) was up 12%. The number of documentations (34) was 52% of the number for 1991 and there were fewer new early and late dates. The cool weather and lack of shorebirds are likely responsible for some of the decrease.

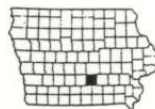
I thank Carl Bendorf for preparing the weather summary. Jim Fuller was not able to help with the report this year. He was in Alaska. The reports from several active birders who report infrequently added considerably to the coverage this year. There are still rarities called in to the Birdline that we do not get reported to the Field Reports.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

A WINTERING PINE WARBLER IN MARION COUNTY

TIM SCHANTZ AND GLADYS BLACK

On 9 January 1992, Schantz received a phone call from Black. She mentioned that she had had either an Orange-crowned or Pine warbler coming to her east window shelf feeder since 19 December. The next morning, Schantz arrived at 10:30 a.m. Black was gone but left a lawn chair near the feeder. At 11:00 he heard a *Dendroica* chip note from the neighbor's yard to the east. Then a warbler flew from a pine tree in that yard and landed in a tree above the feeder. The bird was 20 yards away in good light, and Schantz immediately recognized it as a Pine Warbler. The head and back were dark greenish and unstreaked. The wings and tail were gray with two white wing bars. The tail appeared long, and the undertail coverts were white. The throat and breast had a bright yellow wash. The brightness of the yellow on the breast and the lack of dark streaking on the sides suggested that the bird was probably a non-breeding plumage male. The bird moved to a tree near the feeder and ate some peanut butter smeared in a knot hole. The warbler was harassed by House Finches and flew to a conifer in the neighbor's yard to the west. Schantz left a note on his identification and left to call the Iowa Birdline.



Black's journals provide an excellent day-to-day record of the bird's activities as well as who came to see it. The following are some of the more interesting journal entries:

December 19, 1991-A little warbler on the roofed east window shelf feeder. Lighting is poor. Picking up small pieces of sunflower seeds. House Finches and goldfinches also on the shelf. Little warbler would just move away if finches were aggressive. Stayed on the shelf about three minutes. What is it? Here in Iowa the only warbler I have ever seen in December is an Orange-crowned two years ago. Darkish head, back, wings, tail (slight bars on wings), clear yellow throat and breast. Tail is notched.

December 25, 1991-Sunshine and the little warbler make this a happy Christmas for me. A warbler in Iowa now! On the shelf two times today. Bright green and yellow. A gorgeous bird.

January 15, 1992-Terrific northwest winds. Two inches of snow. Wind chill 50 below zero, the worst night I have seen here in 35 years. I am sure the Pine Warbler must have died last night!

January 16, 1992-No warbler.

January 23, 1993-A miracle, the Pine Warbler was here from 9:30-9:50 a.m. It did not return until after 11:00 a.m. This is such a happy day for me. I phone Tim Schantz and the Iowa Rare Bird Alert.

The Pine Warbler was last seen on 10 February 1992. Many birders from around the state came to see it. Black kept birders updated by placing a note on a stake in the front yard.

Pine Warblers are one of the few warblers that winter mainly in the southern United States. They prefer pine woodlands to breed and winter. On their breeding grounds they are mainly insectivorous. In winter, however, they will eat nutmeats, corn meal, and suet at feeding stations. This is the first report of a Pine Warbler wintering in Iowa. There are winter records for Wisconsin, Illinois, and even as far north as Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.

A census of coniferous trees around Black's house yielded 45 trees in three square city blocks, somewhat resembling the open pine woodlands that Pine Warblers typically winter in.

Cordova Park, Route 1, Otley, IA 50214 and Pleasantville, IA 50225

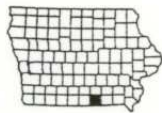
RED PHALAROPE AT RATHBUN RESERVOIR

THOMAS H. KENT

On 8 November 1992 at 7:55 a.m. I was driving the partially flooded road along the south side of Rathbun Reservoir at Island View Recreation Area in Appanoose County when I noticed a very white looking medium-sized shorebird in a flooded ditch. Its shape and constant spinning behavior identified it as a phalarope. The underparts were all white. The bill was black, straight, and slightly tapered but not to a sharp point. The black on the top of the head extended to a thin black line down the back of the neck and broadened at the base of the neck. There was a broad black mark that included the eye. The back and scapulars were uniform gray (no streaks). The wing coverts were darker. In flight the upper surface of the forewing and back were uniform gray with a well-defined white wing stripe, and darker gray along the trailing edge. The upper tail coverts were lighter than the tail, there was a gray wash on the sides of the breast. On the standing bird, the primaries appeared black. The legs were black.

The uniform forewing and back and the thickness of the bill separated this species from Red-necked Phalarope. Also, the late fall date is not unusual for Red Phalarope records in the Midwest. This bird was quite cooperative and was seen by others during the rest of the day and the next day.

211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246



I.O.U. BUSINESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday, 3 April 1993, Algona, 1-3:45 p.m.
ANN M. BARKER, FOR HILDA SICKELS

Present: Ann Barker (presiding), Pam Allen, Bob Cecil, Rick Hollis, Diane Porter, Mark Proescholdt, Harold White. Others present: Reid Allen, Beth Brown, Dan Dorrance, Ann Johnson, Matt Kenne, Tom Kent, Beth Proescholdt, Lee Schoenewe, Carol Thompson, and Russ Widner. The minutes of the 7 November 1992 meeting were approved as revised (motion by Allen, seconded by Proescholdt).

Treasurer Allen distributed financial statements for 1992, including a balance sheet, statement of support, revenues and expenses, and membership information, as well as a final copy of the 1993 budget. The report was accepted.

Committee Reports

Records: Kent reported that the final batch of 1992 records is being reviewed and the report should be on time. A subcommittee will review old records which were not reviewed in 1982. An amendment will be made to the committee's working guidelines which will make it easier to request a re-review and more difficult to downgrade a record. Information on costs of archiving records was distributed and discussed. Kent questioned the committee's jurisdiction over field reports and photographs. It was clarified that the committee was given responsibility for archiving all photographs as well as all records (see minutes for 7 December 1991 board meeting). Kent was commended by the board for all of his hard work.

Membership: Names of interested potential members from the feeder survey were given to the committee, and a mailing will be done. Two positions will need to be filled in 1993.

Publications: *Iowa Bird Life* editor Jim Dinsmore will be out of state during fall 1993. He plans to publish issues 2 and 3 of vol. 63 prior to his departure, and issue 4 on his return in December. The journal's annual report was distributed. Expenses for volume 62 were slightly less than projected.

Library-Historical: The committee will need to recommend two members to fill expiring terms this year. Kent reported that the book collection belonging to the late Fred Pierce, former editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, has apparently been sold.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Thompson reported that species accounts are still being written; the committee will meet 2 May. Award certificates will be presented to volunteers at the spring meeting. The committee has asked the board to consider four publication options, as follows:

1. Have the book published by a publisher such as University of Iowa Press. The cost of the book would be around \$50.
2. Give an initial payment such as \$10,000 to the publisher in an effort to keep the cost of the book lower.
3. Let the I.O.U. publish the book, if this is an option.
4. The I.O.U. could print but not distribute the book.

The Department of Natural Resources has committed \$9,000 toward publication. After discussion, it was as moved (Hollis, seconded by White) that a decision on how much to contribute to the publication be tabled until further information about the specific cost of each alternative can be obtained. Motion carried.

Education Booklet Promotion: Hollis reported that Linda Zaletel and the Iowa Conservation Education Council are working on promotion of the booklet. The committee will meet and formulate plans, possibly including a mailing.

Spring Bird Count: Plans are set for the first count to be held 9 May. An announcement will be in the newsletter. The committee has not met.

Field Trip: An annual report was submitted; there are five trips scheduled for 1993. The committee was commended for its excellent organization and hard work.

Nominating: Barker thanked the committee (Jim Dinsmore-chair, Beth Brown, and Beth Proescholdt) for their work in preparing a slate of candidates to run for election to office at the spring meeting. The slate is:

President: Ann Barker
Vice President: Jim Fuller
Board of Directors: O.J. (Bud) Gode,
Matthew Kenne



Pine Warbler 92-08 P-0317
Pleasantville, Marion Co., IA
10 Jan 1992 Tim Schantz

92-08

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What species? Pine Warbler How many? 1

Location? Gladys Black's yard - Pleasantville - (Marion Co.)

Type of habitat? Trees and shrubs in yard

When? date(s): Feb. 1, 1992 time: 1:50 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. approximately

Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148

others with you: Gladys Black

others before or after you: Pam and Reid Allen, Tim Schantz, Tom Kent?, others

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

This small warbler-size bird had a very bright yellow breast, a dark greenish back, two white wing bars, white undertail coverts, and dark legs. It had a yellowish eyering but no spectacles. It had a small dark bill, some wide darkish streaks on its yellow breast, and white spots in the corners of its tail when it flicked its tail. I maybe heard a chip once or twice as Gladys and I sat in yard chairs and watched this lovely bird flitting around and eating peanut butter from a hole in an apple tree.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Yellow-throated Vireo has spectacles and does not have white tail spots.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Sunny, sun behind me, 30 yards away to 15 yards away, 8X30 Binocs.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen some Pine warblers and many Yellow-throated Vireos.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

R.T. Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds

How long before field notes made? 3:50 p.m. this form completed? Feb. 12, 1992
that day

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

92-08

What species? Pine Warbler How many? 1Location? Glady's Black's feeder, Pleasantville, IAType of Habitat? small townWhen? date(s): 12 January 1992 time: 8³⁰ to 8³³Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Low City, IA 52246Others with you: noneOthers before or after you: Glady's Black, Tim Schantz, others last 4 days

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Bird was on a branch and on feeder. Warbler with thin bill and overall olive to yellow color. Quite yellow on breast and sides. Faint dark eye-line. Two thin white wing bars. Plain back. Whiter in vent area. I didn't see the white in tail, but light was bad and observation time short.

Similar species; how eliminated:

The thin bill was not that of a vireo. The bird was too large and elongated for a kinglet. Orange-crowned Warbler does not have wing bars or as bright a yellow color on breast. Also too yellow for the much less likely Bay-breasted or Blackpoll warblers.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no, but others probably
If yes, explain: saw it better.

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Overcast and light rain. Rather dark. 25 yds. 60x binoculars 20x scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen many.References and persons consulted before writing description: noneHow long before field notes made? 5 hrs this form completed? 5 mins

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).

DOCUMENTATION FORM
Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species: Pine Warbler

Location: Pleasantville, Marion Co., IA

Habitat: Residential feeding operation with many older trees

Date: 3 February 1992

Time: 9:45 to 9:50

Name and Address: Ann Johnson, 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, Iowa 50211

Other observers: Gladys Black, Tim Schantz (photo)

Description of bird: This small passerine came in to feed on peanut butter on the branches of an old apple tree. It was identifiable as a large warbler. The lemon yellow color of the head and breast was striking, much more intense than those I usually see in the fall. The breast had a few fine darker streaks on it. The eye was dark and there was a narrow dark line through the eye. The bill was heavy for a warbler. The back was olive and unstreaked. The wings were blackish with two white wing bars. I did not get a good look at the tail nor the legs/feet.

Similar species and how eliminated: Other large warblers with yellow coloration and black wings with wing bars can be eliminated by the unstreaked back. Vireos are eliminated by the narrower bill shape.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? No

Viewing conditions (lighting, distance, optics): The bird was seen through binoculars at distances of 30 to 75 feet. The sun was over my right shoulder.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Many warblers of this and other species have been observed over the years.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None.

How long before field notes made? Evening of observation **How long before this form completed?** Same evening