

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 10/18/94

Pine Warbler

20 Dec 1992

Iowa City, Johnson Co., IA

\*Fuller, \*Kent, \*Pinkston

IBL 63:33,42,43,51,70, Fuller 1993

Record Number: 92-43  
Classification: A-P

#### DOCUMENTATIONS

Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240 (6/30/93)

Randy Pinkston, 526 Reno St., Iowa City 52245

Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

T. H. Kent, 27 Dec, P-0354

Jim Fuller, 22 Dec, P-0355 (IBL 63:108)

#### REFERENCES

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 63:33, 42, 43

Field Reports: IBL 63:51

Records Committee: IBL 63:70

Fuller, J. 1993. Pine Warblers in winter at Iowa City. IBL 63:106, 108 (P-0355). [year on photo should be 1992/thk]

VOTE: 7 A-P

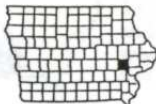
A-P, Diagnostic photos for both birds clearly showing unstreaked back, yellow throat, eye-ring and breast and bold white wingbars on the adult bird and excellent photo of the immature bird.

A-P, Good details and good photos for Pine Warblers are provided.

## PINE WARBLERS IN WINTER AT IOWA CITY

JIM FULLER

While participating in the Iowa City Christmas Bird Count on 20 December 1992, Jim Scheib, Matt Prather, and I were searching for kinglets in pines around the Hancher Auditorium parking lot on the University of Iowa campus. It was about 9:00 a.m. when Jim excitedly yelled that he was looking at a warbler with yellow on it. As I arrived, two small birds flew and landed about 50 feet away. We soon relocated them foraging on the ground under some white pines.



Both birds were warbler size and shape, and one appeared generally yellow, while the other was a dull brown. We identified them as an adult and immature Pine Warbler.

The adult featured a breast and throat that were lemon yellow, with the color extending up the sides of the neck. The yellow faded into white on the lower belly, where there was some faint streaking. The head and upper back were greenish and unstreaked. The folded wings were gray-brown in color with two bold white wing bars. The tail was relatively long and a darker brown. Surrounding the dark eye was a distinct yellow eye ring. The bill was slender, and both it and the legs were dark.

The immature bird was generally a dull brown, with the only yellow a faint wash on the throat. Two wing bars and an eye ring were buffy-white. The underparts were an off-white with faint streaking along the sides. The brown back was unstreaked, and the bill and legs were dark.

In flight, both birds exhibited white in the tail. On several occasions, the adult gave a sharp, rather high pitched chip note, which was regular and continuous. The adult looked most like a Yellow-throated Vireo. However, its bill was more slender, and its body not so large and chunky as a vireo's. The immature in first basic plumage might be confused with Bay-breasted or Blackpoll warblers in the same plumage, but the combination of unstreaked back, dark legs, and close association with the adult Pine Warbler ruled out the other *Dendroica* species.

After informing the count participants at lunch, many were able to view the birds soon thereafter. At that time, Tom Kent photographed the warblers (Figure 1).

Almost daily for the next two and a half weeks they were relocated in the same area, with the last sighting on 6 January 1993, the day before a heavy snowfall. The warblers were always together, and usually associated with a group of four Golden-crowned Kinglets in the lower branches or on the ground under coniferous trees. It appeared that they were gleaning insects or larvae from the pine needles, and from the duff beneath the trees, and on one occasion, the adult was observed eating a moth. They favored sunny and wind-protected locations.

Pine Warblers are one of the more cold-tolerant warblers, and they winter in the southern and southeastern states. The only previous winter record in Iowa was 19 December 1991 to 10 February 1992, when an adult appeared in the yard and at the feeder of Gladys Black in Pleasantville (Schantz and Black, *Iowa Bird Life* 63:81-82, 1993).

6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, IA 52240

## IOU BUSINESS

### SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

Keosauqua, 15 May 1993 3:20 to 5:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: ANN M. BARKER, PRESIDENT

HILDA SICKELS, SECRETARY

Barker thanked Bob Cecil for organizing the meeting and the Iowa City Bird Club for their assistance. The minutes for the September 1992 business meeting were approved as published (motion by Carol Thompson, seconded by Beth Proescholdt).

#### Reports

**Treasurer:** Pam Allen presented complete financial statements for 1992, as well as membership information and the budget for 1993. Financially, the organization is in good shape. The report was accepted with thanks.

**Records:** Tom Kent reported that review of 1992 records is not quite completed. A cost analysis revealed that it would be simpler and cheaper for those submitting photos to send slides rather than prints.

**Membership:** Information about the I.O.U. is being sent to feeder survey participants who requested it. This has been a consistent source of new members.

**Publications:** *Iowa Bird Life* editor Jim Dinsmore will be away on sabbatical leave during the fall semester. He has arranged for regular publication of the journal to continue. The committee will meet during the fall meeting.

**Library-Historical:** The natural history book collection belong to the late Fred Pierce, former editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, has been sold.

**Breeding Bird Atlas:** The committee plans to award certificates to outstanding volunteers at the banquet. Photographs are needed for the publication; members were urged to contribute. Publication alternatives are being explored.

**Big Day:** Awards will be given during the fall meeting.

**Education Booklet Promotion:** This new committee was formed upon the dissolution of the Education Committee which had completed its task of publishing the booklet. Copies of the booklet have been distributed through the area education agencies. Appreciation was expressed to Linda Zaletel for her tremendous contributions to the project.

**Spring count:** Pete Petersen reported that 12 to 15 counties participated in the first count which was held on 9 May. There was not much response from volunteers; information was sent out to only 15 people. After discussion about when to hold the count, it was moved (Tom Kent, seconded by Rick Hollis) that we recommend that it be done on the same day as the national count. The motion carried.

**Field trips:** The trip to Kossuth County on 3 April attracted a large number of participants. The committee is planning a trip for 1994.

**Iowa Birdline:** Usage of the birdline has increased for the fifth straight year. The Board of Directors commended Jim Fuller for his diligent persistence in keeping Iowa birders informed and requested that he receive the first "President's Award", which will honor individuals who have given outstanding service to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. The plaque will be presented at the banquet.

#### Old Business

**Upcoming meetings:** Lee Schoenewe and Jim Fuller will be planning the fall meeting for Spencer on 17-19 September. The spring 1994 meeting has been proposed for Ames on 20-22 May with Jim Dinsmore and Hank Zaletel in charge of arrangements. It was moved (Rick Hollis, seconded by Bud Gode) that we accept this proposal. The motion carried.

**Review of Board action:** At recent meetings, the Board of Directors voted:

1. to establish a policy of releasing the mailing list on a case by case basis and to keep any release especially relevant to Iowa birders;
2. not to recommend adoption of a code of ethics; and
3. to investigate recruiting outside speakers for spring and fall meetings using money in the meeting fund.

### New Business

Election of officers: The following were elected to 2-year terms of office: President, Ann Barker; Vice-President, Jim Fuller; Board of Directors, O.J. (Bud) Gode, Ann Johnson, and Matthew Kenne.

Dues for 1994: The Board of Directors reviewed the dues structure and recommended no change for next year. It was moved (Pam Allen, seconded by Tom Kent) that the board's recommendation be accepted. The motion carried.

Carol Thompson raised the question of whether the organization should adopt a code of ethics. This was followed by extensive discussion. It was moved (Rick Hollis, seconded by Russ Widner) that a committee be formed to write a code of ethics for consideration for adoption by the membership. The motion carried. The president will appoint the ad hoc committee.

A new "Guide to Iowa State Preserves" has been published and is available from John Fleckenstein. Jim Dinsmore relayed news of a vote of commendation for the I.O.U. from the American Ornithologists' Union for the group's work in holding the A.O.U. meeting in Ames in 1992.

### CORRECTION

In looking over the 1992 CBC data published in *Iowa Bird Life* 63:35, I discovered that the Common Merganser data are missing. No one else has missed those data but assuming they will be valuable to future workers, they are as follows: Clinton-27, Princeton-489, Davenport-763, Muscatine-36, Oakville-15, Burlington-150, Keokuk-196, Mississippi River subtotal-1,676; Sioux City-44, DeSoto N.W.R.-79, Omaha-288, Glenwood-3, Shenandoah-1, Missouri River subtotal-415; Spirit Lake-37, Westfield-3, Northern Iowa subtotal-40; Iowa City-12, Saylorville Res.-484, Des Moines-19, Jamaica-2, Central Iowa subtotal-517; Rathbun-710, Red Rock-9,500, Southern Iowa subtotal-10,210. State total-12,858.--J.J.D.



Pine Warbler, Iowa City, 23 December 1993  
Photo by Jim Fuller



The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

### EDITORIAL STAFF

James J. Dinsmore, Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014  
Carl J. Bendorf, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 845 Cypress Ct., Iowa City, IA 52245  
James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014  
James L. Fuller, Fall Field Reports Editor, 6 Longview Knoll, RR 6, Iowa City, IA 52240  
Thomas H. Kent, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246  
W. Ross Silcock, Christmas Bird Count & Winter Field Reports Editor, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653

### SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$15 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$15); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$15 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$300 as single payment or \$75 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh, or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

### OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Ann M. Barker, President (1995), 25368 250th Street, Princeton, IA 52768  
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Pam Allen, Treasurer (1994), 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265  
Other members of the Board of Directors: Eloise Armstrong (1994), O. J. (Bud) Gode (1995), Richard Hollis (1994), Ann Johnson (1995), and Matthew C. Kenne (1995).

### STANDING COMMITTEES

*Publications:* John Fleckenstein (chair), Ann M. Barker, Dennis Carter, David C. Edwards.  
*Records:* Thomas H. Kent (secretary), Eugene Armstrong, Tanya Bray, Robert Cecil, Ray Cummins, Ann Johnson, Francis L. Moore.  
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Pine Warbler P-0354  
Iowa City, Johnson Co., IA  
27 Dec 1992 T. H. Kent

92-43

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Pine Warbler P-0354  
Iowa City, Johnson Co., IA  
27 Dec 1992 T. H. Kent

92-43

00 101 INNNN 568 111-002

Pine Warbler P-0354  
Iowa City, Johnson Co., IA  
27 Dec 1992 T. H. Kent

92-43

00 101 INNNN 568 111-003

## DOCUMENTATION FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTING

SPECIES: Pine Warbler Adult and Immature

LOCATION: Under white and scotch pines at edge of Hancher Auditorium parking lot, University of Iowa, Iowa City (Johnson County).

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240.

OTHER OBSERVERS: Jim Scheib and Matt Prather. Later in day, m.ob., including photography by Tom Kent.

DATE and TIME: 20 December, 1992 (8:55-9:20 AM) and 12:55-1:00 PM).

BACKGROUND: On the Iowa City CBC, three of us were searching for kinglets that had been reported at this location a few days previously. Jim Scheib yelled that he had a warbler, and that it had yellow on it. As I arrived, two birds flew about 50 feet and landed. We soon relocated them foraging under white pines.

DESCRIPTION of BIRD #1 (Adult): This bird was warbler size, and on first view showed yellow. The breast and throat were indeed a rather bright yellow color, with some faint dark streaking along the sides. The yellow also extended up the sides of the neck. The yellow faded into white on the lower belly and vent, where there also was some faint streaking. The head and upper back showed a greenish cast in good light. The rest of the back was brown and unstreaked. The tail and folded wing were brownish. There were two wingbars of an off-white color. The dark eye had an eye ring which appeared to be a yellow-white color. Both birds continued to forage under pine trees, and at one point this bird appeared to eat a small moth.

DESCRIPTION of BIRD #2 (Immature): This bird was the same size and shape, but in coloration was rather dull in shades of brown. The only yellow on it was very faint on the throat. The upperparts were brown on the head and back, while the tail, and folded wing were dark brown. The folded wing had two wingbars which were a dirty white color. There was also an eye ring which was also an off white color. The underparts were mostly dirty white, with some faint streaking along the sides.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The combination of light eye ring, whitish wingbars, unstreaked back, and light belly and vent should separate this species from any other warbler.

OPTICS and VIEWING: The bird was viewed from distances of 20-50 feet using both Swift Audubon 8.5 X 44 binoculars, and

KOWA TSN-4 telescope 20X setting. Viewing was generally toward the north. It was early morning on a clear day with the sun in the southeast.

FIELD NOTES and REFERENCES: Field notes were immediately reviewed, and this form was typed the next day, on 12/21. The Peterson guide was consulted after the birds had been viewed for about 15 minutes.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION: On 22 December, 1992, I spent 45 minutes during the noon hour chasing these birds around the Hancher Auditorium area and attempting to take photographs. They were still often associating with Golden-crowned Kinglets. A feature that I had noticed also on the 20th, but failed to get into my field notes at that time was the vocalization of the adult bird only. It had a very sharp, rather high pitched chip note, which was pretty regular and continuous. The immature bird did not make any noise. Another feature that I noticed on the 22nd, which for some reason had missed the first day, was an obvious white in the tail when the birds flew, especially the adult.

## DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Pine Warbler; Number: 2

Location: Hancher Auditorium parking lot, Iowa City, Johnson Co., Iowa.

Date: 20 December 1992; Time: 1:00 to 1:15 p.m. (approx)

Name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

Others before/with/after: Found by Jim Scheib and Jim Fuller; many others present when I saw them.

Habitat and circumstances: Large complex parking area with many rows of pine trees at edges.

Description of bird: Two warblers were feeding on the ground under and in branches of pine trees with a flock of four Golden-crowned Kinglets. The birds were similar in size and structure, but one was quite yellow and the other only light dull yellow on the breast and throat. The features that I noted were thin dark warbler bill, distinct eye ring, unstreaked back, two wing bars, white vent, relatively long dark tail, very faint thin breast streaks, and dark legs. The yellow (adult) bird had bright lemon-yellow breast, throat, and eye ring. The other bird appeared more olive colored with gray eye ring. The wing bars were bold and white in the adult, thinner and browner in the young bird. In the adult, the wings were gray and contrasted with the yellow. The young bird was not as contrasty. I spent sometime trying to get photos of both birds.

Voice: Not heard by me.

Similar species: The adult reminded me more of a Yellow-throated Vireo than of Bay-breasted or Black-poll warblers. It did not, however, have a vireo bill and was not as large or chunky as the vireo. The young bird did not have the back streaking of the other warblers and appeared to have a longer tail. The habitat and likelihood at this time of year favor Pine Warbler.

Any one have reservations?: No.

Light: In shade and in bright sun; Distance: As close as 25 feet; Optics: 10x binocular, 420 mm lens.

Previous experience: Have seen a number of Pine Warblers and look-alikes. I don't recall having seen an adult and first-year bird together like this before.

References before/after viewing: None.

Time of notes: None. Final typing: 1 day.



## DOCUMENTATION OF RARE SPECIES

Pine Warbler, Dendroica pinus

Date: Sunday, December 20, 1992, approx. 1 p.m.  
(Iowa City Christmas Bird Count).

Location: Hancher Auditorium parking lot, Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa (Habitat: Pines bordering parking lot; urban).

Other Observers: Found earlier in day by Jim Scheib and Jim Fuller; also Carl Bendorf, Tom Kent, Dick Tetrault, and others.

Description: Two birds actively foraging in and on ground around pines, in company of approx. 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets. Much larger than kinglets. Typical Dendroica warblers.

An immature in 1st basic plumage: Dull brownish-green above and on face, pale below washed with greenish and yellowish tones; unstreaked back; brown legs; two distinct buffy wing-bars, the posterior one (tips of greater wing coverts) broader than the anterior one; tail dark, I did not see white spots.

An adult in basic plumage: Bright greenish above and on face; bright yellow from chin and lower face to between legs on belly, then white from between legs to undertail coverts; sides of yellow breast with ill-defined greenish streaking; yellowish wash onto side of neck; distinct yellow eye-ring on green face; green back unstreaked except for shadows between feather tracts; two bold white wingbars; brown legs; tail not studied well.

Conditions: Partly cloudy, some sun. Calm. Temp. 30<sup>o</sup>F. Observed at approx. 5 meters with Zeiss 10x40 binocular.

Similar Species: Thin warbler bill rules out Yellow-throated Vireo. Adult Pine Warbler really is unmistakable. Large, chunky Dendroica warbler in 1st basic plumage might be confused with Bay-breasted or Blackpoll Warblers in like plumage. Combination of unstreaked back, distinct green face patch, dark legs, and close association with adult Pine Warbler rules out other species.

Previous Experience: Twenty years' experience with Pine Warblers in all plumages in eastern Texas where it is a common permanent resident. I have often observed them foraging in mixed species flocks on the ground in winter.

--Randall Pinkston  
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