

Pine Warbler  
2 Sep 1988  
Norwalk, Warren Co., IA  
\*Johnson  
IBL 59:16, 77

Record Number: 88-32  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Ann Johnson, 2 Sep, addendum 4 May 1989

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 59:16  
Records Committee: IBL 59:77

VOTE: 2-A-D, 5-NA

NA. Confirmation of unstreaked back could have clinched this ID.

A-D. Would be more convincing if wing bars were described as bold and size of large warbler.

NA. Could have been a Pine Warbler, but not enough detail provided by observer. Back description as "olive", but no mention of the presence of or lack of any streaks. Also, observer failed to consider fall Bay-breasted Warbler, the species most easily confused with Pine Warbler. More detail might make this record acceptable.

NA. Back and leg color not described. The most similar species--Bay-breasted--was not considered. Streaks on sides suggestive, but without adequate look at back, I am not willing to accept this ID.

NA. Key field mark, lack of streaking on back, not mentioned in the description. In Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Pine complex in fall plumage yellow breast and faint markings on sides can be in all three species (I have been fooled too many times). Streaks on back or lack thereof more reliable than other field marks listed.

A-D. This is a regular species not requiring documentation.

NA. Obviously observer is experienced, but the key mark differentiating immature from Blackpoll imm. (unstreaked back) was not mentioned. No indication of age of bird. I suspect this bird as likely to be imm. Blackpoll (not Bay-breasted, as belly was seen to be white). "Sense of eyering" only indication bird could possibly be an adult, but I am not sure what this means.

REVOTE (after further information provided): 7 A-D

A-D. Additional description of unstreaked back is conclusive.

A-D. I dislike the resubmission with further details that are now in the distant memory.

A-D. The "plain, unstreaked" back, when added to the rest of the description, makes this record acceptable.

A-D. Seems reasonable, especially considering the long time interval observer had to look at the bird.

A-D. Added detail of unstreaked back makes this record acceptable.

A-D. While I have reservations about the source of the additional info (field notes? or memory?) I should be the last to complain. Not a particularly unexpected sighting, in any event.

SENT TO: Ann Johnson, 532 120th Ave., Norwalk, IA 50211 [3/29/89, 5/30/89]

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species: Pine Warbler

Location: My Yard - small acreage in northern Warren County, IA

Habitat: Mixed open woods and field edge with creek and many shrubs

Date(s): 9/2/88 Time: 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm

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

Other observers: none

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 behavior and voice. Small warbler-sized bird flew into the honeysuckle. "Black wings with white wing bars" and dark tail and yellow breast discernible with the naked eye. With binoculars I observed "yellow throat and breast with faint markings on sides; breast clear; belly and undertail coverts white; olive head and back with a sense of yellow eyering" - color of the eyering was much paler than the throat and breast. Thin warbler bill. Bird moved back and forth across the yard between dogwood/honeysuckle shrubs and scotch pine grove and was observed periodically during about a forty-five minute period. The bird did not emit any song or call notes and no particular unusual behavior was observed.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Yellow-throated Vireo - warbler bill; light streaking on sides; light eyering evident as opposed to spectacles

Blackburnian Warbler - face pattern wrong

Blackpoll - no distinct eyeline; head and back more olive

Other warblers - combination of field marks

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain:

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

Excellent light with sun at back. Bird was low in bushes so there was no back light problem. Seen at paced 35' through 7x26 Bushnells.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Pines have been seen on numerous occasions in Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. 30+ years experience in identifying warblers.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None prior to field notes; National Geographic Field Guide, Audubon Master Guide, and other guides consulted prior to identification and completion of this form.

How long before field notes made? 2 minutes How long before this form completed? 1 month

Addendum to Pine Warbler Documentation (9/2/88) 88-32

This description is guilty of an error of omission; i.e., I failed to describe what wasn't there. If you add "plain, unstreaked" to the olive back, I think it pretty well takes care of the questions raised. The bird was obviously an adult as the yellow breast was brighter than the fall "baypolls" and I really believed when it first flew into the shrubbery that it was a yellow-throated vireo. It was only after a good look through the binoculars that I could discern the large, but thinner, bill, the light side streaking, and the lack of vireo spectacles. There was a light yellow eyering which made the eye more prominent, but it did not give the definitive eyering look such as a Connecticut. The similar species mentioned in the comments were dismissed early in the identification process almost subconsciously because of the plain olive back, white undertail coverts, no cheek patch, etc. When I determined it was not a yellow-throated vireo but rather a warbler, I came to the conclusion that I had an adult pine warbler.

Ann Johnson  
5/4/89

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