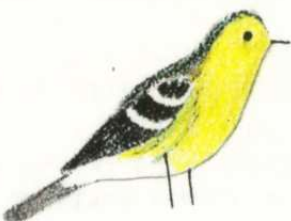


DOCUMENTATION OF POSSIBLE EARLY DATE



Possible PINE WARBLER (Dendroica pinus)

Date: 4 August 1991 (early)

Time: approx. 11 a.m.

Location: Swan Lake Road west of Coralville Reservoir, Johnson Co., Iowa

Description: A large Dendroica warbler with a long tail. Much smaller than nearby N. Cardinal, distinctly larger than nearby wood-warbler which was most likely an immature Yellow Warbler (Dendroica petechia). Bright lemon-yellow face, throat, breast, and sides blending with white belly and undertail coverts. Sides with perhaps a hint of coarse greenish streaking. Upperparts darker, greenish to brownish. Wings very dark brown to black with two bold white wingbars. Bill thin, needle-like. No tail spots noticed as bird flew directly overhead.

Voice: None heard.

Behavior: Warbler-like, active but not nervous, treetop level.

Habitat: Tall poplars at the edge of second-growth mixed hardwoods forest near the reservoir. Surrounded by cornfields. Groves of cultivated pines within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the area. The bird was first spotted in the top-most branches of a bare (poplar?) snag.

Conditions: Observed for a minute or less in open sunlight from approx. 60 meters and directly overhead in flight with Zeiss 10 x 40 binoculars.

Similar Species: Yellow-throated Vireo has thick, less pointed bill and distinct yellow spectacles. Immature or female Northern (Baltimore) Oriole much larger.

Previous Experience: Over ten years with Pine Warblers in all plumages at all times of year where it is a common resident in the pineywoods of eastern Texas. Similar experience with Yellow-throated Vireo as a summer resident and N. Oriole as a migrant.

Sources of Doubt: My bird was studied briefly at a great distance. Peterson states "No other bright yellow-breasted warbler, lacking other conspicuous marks, has white wing-bars". However, Kaufman states "Pine usually has a distinctive (facial) pattern..." and describes this in detail, including dark auriculars, even likening it to the strong pattern of the Prairie Warbler. By contrast, my bird appeared to have a plain, unmarked lemon-yellow face. Secondly, though my bird flew directly overhead I saw no white spots in the rectrices. Pine Warbler should show large white spots

(over)

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