

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.