Details on basic-plumaged/immature? Pine Warbler, Dendroica pinus

Date: April 24, 1994 Time:

Location: DuPont bridge road, Johnson County, Iowa

Description:

Large, long-tailed warbler feeding in mid- to high-canopy of open second-growth clearing. Non-descript: Unstreaked dull-olive above, pale olive below with pale yellowish wash on throat and upper breast, indistinct streaking on lower breast and sides. Two thin, indistinct white wingbars. Olive face with indistinct pale eye-ring; no superciliary line. Outermost web of outer rectrix on one side appeared entirely or nearly all-white. No tail-wagging habit.

Conditions: Overcast skies, light rain. Zeiss 10x40 binocular from 20-30 feet for several minutes.

Similar Species: Observed with Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers. Really there was nothing else it could be. I considered an immature Palm Warbler but by late April the diagnostic marks should be apparent. The lack of a superciliary line and brownish cap, coupled with feeding behavior higher in the canopy and lack of tail-wagging, rule out Palm Warbler. Extensive white in the outer rectrix supports Pine Warbler.

Previous Experience: Lifelong experience with Pine Warblers in all age classes and plumages in eastern Texas where they are permanent residents.

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