

Species: PINE WARBLER

Dendroica pinus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): July 11, 1976

Time Bird Seen: 1630 +- to 1640 +-

Locality: 40° 33' 15" N. 105° 37' 32" W.

Nearest Town: Rustic

County: Larimer

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

None

Optical Equipment: Tasco 7X35 Binoculars Model 116

If photographed, type of equipment used: Not photographed

Light Conditions: sunny, less than 10% cloud cover

Distance from bird (how measured): Varied as bird moved about, approximately 25 ft to 50 ft
- - - - - Distance estimated utilizing tree height. - - - - -

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Male Plumage: AHY

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: For the duration of time the bird was observed, it was not reacting interspecifically or seen in close proximity of any other species. When first observed the bird was gleaning insects from the trunk of a dead Englemann spruce approximately half way up the 30 ft trunk. As I approached for a closer look the bird continued up the trunk feeding occasionally hopping to the proximal end of the larger branches in search of insects. Upon reaching the crown of the spruce the warbler flew to the next nearest tree(a live Englemann 20+- ft from the first) and hopped about the upper branches on the distal ends looking throughout the needle clusters for insects. It continued this behavior then flew out of sight.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field: The same overall external

morphology as a Yellow-rump with respect to size and shape. Plumage markings included 2 white wing bars, inconspicuous green stripes extending from the jugulum to the anterior portion of the abdomen with the chin through the breast region a dull yellow gradually losing color to a white mid-way through the abdomen posterior to the crissum. Bill was dark and acute in shape. Crown to rump was olive green. The ventral side of the tail possessed 2 white patches near the distal end on the outer rectrices. Thus the bird appeared to be an AHY male Pine warbler (AHY due to the time the bird was observed, 11 July 1976).

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

The only vocalization of the warbler was when it perched atop the dead Englemann spruce, and when it took to flight from the top of the live Englemann. Field notes of the song were not taken in an audiospectrographical manner nor with any other respect to the song except as it related to the birds behavior described above.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: Dominate plant species were Englemann spruce and subalpine fir at 9025 ft in elevation. Understory consisted of water birch and willow spp., with much sedge and grass as the area was boggy, a product of extensive flooding by beavers many years ago. The warbler was seen on the edge of the spruce-fir forest as the conifers gave way to the birch and willow. Mountains up to 11,000 ft in height surrounded the valley.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated? I had in my possession at the time the bird was observed a copy of Birds of North America by Robbins et al., and A Field Guide to Western Birds by Peterson. I knew the bird could not be any Vireo species for the bill was acute in shape, and the streaking of the sides. As for similar warbler species, the magnolia was discounted because of lack of wing bars, heavier breast barring in black, and the white of the ocular region. The Yellow-rump although variable in plumage coloration lacks the yellow of the breast, the olive green dorsally, and possesses yellow on the crown and rump of which this warbler had none of these characteristics. The Townsend's female similar in many features to a male Pine warbler has prominent green cheek patches, whereas the warbler I observed had a continuous olive green that extended from the crown to the rump including the cheek patch within the same plumage coloration. Palm warbler male has a rusty crown and white superciliary line so the head coloration was completely different.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: I have been an active student of ornithology for 21 years starting at age 9. I also grew up in New York state spending much time in northern New England in later years where the Pine warbler is fairly abundant. The similar species endemic to Colorado have been observed by me for the past 5.5 years I've been a resident of the state. I'm also in the process of completing my B.S. in Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University where I'm majoring in ornithology.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

While in the field I consulted A Field Guide to Western Birds by Peterson, and Birds of North America by Robbins et al.. After arriving at home that evening, I looked through A Field Guide to the Birds by Peterson, and Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers by Bent. This report was written from notes made during x after x observation; from memory x

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