

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Species: Blackpoll Warbler

Date: Sept 4, 1985

Number: One

Age: imm.

Sex: ?

Locality (exact address or other specific information to describe location, such as x miles north of x intersection):

ranch on east side Promontory Peninsula, near Corinne

County: Box Elder

City: /

Elevation: ?

Time: late morning

Length of time observed: off and on for 10 minutes

Habitat: 'oasis' ranch house situation - clump of large trees surrounded by desert + Great Salt Lake

Distance to bird: as close as 20 ft. Light conditions: good

Optical equipment: Zeiss 10x40 B

Observer: Paul Lehman

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Ella Sorensen

DESCRIPTION. Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern color, and any unique features.

Copied from field notes taken day of sighting:

A rather plump warbler almost yellow-rumped sized, but shorter tailed; yellowish throat and upper breast with dusky streaking on breast; remainder of underparts white; dull grayish-olive wash to flanks; white undertail coverts; two distinct white wingbars and tailspots; olive-green back with rather thick dusky vertical streaks; yellowish supercilium; thin broken eyering; dusky legs contrasted with distinctly paler (fleshy-yellow) feet.

Voice and/or call notes: none

Behavior: feeding rather actively in large shade trees

Describe what specific feature(s) you saw and/or heard that caused you to come to your conclusions:

(see above)

What similar species might it have been, and how were these eliminated?

Imm./fall Bay-breasted Warbler most similar but has dark (blackish) feet, buffy undertail coverts, less streaking on breast, lime-ier green upperparts; almost all show at least a trace of buff on flanks

i.d. of Blackpoll virtually immediate

Pine Warbler eliminated by foot color, facial pattern, back streaking; only adult Pine has green upperparts - as in Utah in early Sept. extremely unlikely

What experience have you had with this and similar species?

Blackpoll - many hundreds

Bay-breasted - hundreds

Pine - hundreds

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

Significance of record in the area and/or the state:

probably a very rare but somewhat regular vagrant to state

6?
(only about 3-5 state records at present)

Additional material (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available):

Signature: Paul Lehman

Address: PO Box 1061, Goleta, Calif. 93116

Date prepared:

12/25/85