

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

49-1985

Common Name: Palm Warbler

Scientific Name: *Dendroica palmarum*

Date: 11/24/85

Time: ~4:00 PM

Length of time observed: 2-3 minutes

Number: 1

Age: —

Sex: —

Location: Smithfield, Utah

Latilong: 41° N 111° W

Elevation (if known): 24500 ft.

Distance to bird: 30-40'

Light conditions: flat overcast,

Optical equipment: 10x40 Optolith binoculars

variably light snow

Weather: light snow, occasionally

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

Small sparrow sized bird with peculiar habit of wagging its tail up and down. Yellow wash to under parts, most prominent in posterior belly area and under tail coverts; Back brownish; head brownish capped with yellowish, buff eye line; tail with two white spots on terminal end on underside. Ventral area variably streaked with light brownish.

very late date
but they do winter
in US.
Acceptable -
CMM 30 Jan 86

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

call a thin sip

Behavior:

hopping through hawthorne and other shrubs gleaning insects; low in shrubs mostly

Habitat:

my front yard in residential area, associated with flock near bird feeder, variably shrubby open, and apple & hawthorn trees

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

The tail wagging is unique among the sparrow, finch, warbler like birds it could have been mistaken for

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Many (relatively) sightings of vagrants on coast of California. Abundant associations in Spring '85 at Whitefish Point, Michigan

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

None needed but Audobon Master Guide, Robbins N.A. field guide, Petersons guides, and Song & Barden Birds of NA all previously studied

Significance of record in this area or the state:

possible 2nd record for state (unknown at time of observation)

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

Description from notes taken at time of sighting _____ notes made later _____ from memory

Observer: Jeff P. Smith

Signature:

Address: 17 North 100 East
Smithfield, Utah 84332

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

None

Date prepared: 11/26/85

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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