

9-1990

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Palm Warbler
 Date: Nov. 4th 1990 Time: 2³⁵ pm
 Number: 1 Age: fall adult? Sex: ?
 Location: Murray City Park, Salt Lake County, Utah
 Lat/long: 5 Elevation: 4280 ft.
 Distance to bird: 20 ft - 60 yds Light conditions: excellent
 Optical equipment: 10x40 Binos
 Weather: cold/clear

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

WARBLER (approx. same size as accompanying Yellow-rumped) with medium brown upperparts... back, wings, nape, and tail, Crown slightly darker and rump slightly lighter, light supercilium and dark eyeline extending through lores. Face (auriculars) brown. Underparts dirty white... throat, breast, upper belly, but lower belly and undertail coverts yellow. Large white undertail spots. Flicked tail continuously - tail seemed proportion shorter than other common warblers. No wing bars noticed. Fine discreet streaks on sides of breast. Bill and legs dark

Wasn't birding when I spotted bird on ground flicking tail - ran to car to get binos, bird was still there.

Voice or call notes:

Chip note heard - "different from yellow-rumped" is all notes said
about call

Behavior:

Bird was under bush at the edge of a pond walking along, while flicking tail. Flushed low in trees (tail flicking continually), when pursued flew higher in trees then dropped into a low thicket some

Habitat:

distance away
Box elder, Russian olive, and weeds near a small ornamental pond

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:

Ground walking, tail flicking, brown upper parts, white underparts with yellow undertail coverts, no wing bars, large tail spots, light supercilium, and dark eye-line pointed toward palm.

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

Orange crowned - supercilium and plainness similar but has no tail spots nor does it flick tail, underparts colored wrong, upperparts tend to olive ^{green} not brown

Tennessee - underparts colored just opposite to this bird - upperparts more green or olive instead of brown - no tail spots or tail flicking - doesn't walk on ground.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

None of palm - It was different than any fall warbler I was familiar with.

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

National Geo doesn't help with tail spots! Had to use Golden Guide to confirm La Palm has tail spots.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Rare fall vagrant?

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

Observer:

CRAIG L. KROEDY

Signature:

Craig Kroedy

Address:

314 S. 4500 W.
West Point, Utah 84015

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared:

12/29/90 - from notes taken at time of sighting

Return this form to:

Utah Ornithological Society
C/O Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120