

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

28-1985  
29-

Common Name: Palm Warbler Scientific Name: Dendroica palmarum  
 Date: 21 June 1985 Time: ~ 0730 Length of time observed: 1-2 min.  
 Number: 1 (one) Age: Ad ♂ Sex: ♂  
 Location: ROZE, TIZN, S 29, Cache Co., Utah

Lat/long: Elevation (if known): ~ 6500'  
 Distance to bird: 15-20 yds Light conditions: Full Sunlight  
 Optical equipment: Bushnell 7x35 Custom Binoculars  
 Weather: ~ 50°F; wind < 05 mph; < 05% cloud cover  
 ↓  
 Me <sup>X P. Warb</sup>  
 15-20 yds

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

The bird was observed in an Utah Juniper (Juniperus osteosperma) curlyleaf Mahogany (Cercocarpus ledifolius) - Bigtooth Maple (Acer grandidentata) community on a steep (60% <sup>slope</sup> [clinometer reading]) slope with SE exposure. The mean height of Juniper was ~ 10 feet (~ 3.25 m), and the Mahogany was only slightly shorter (say, 8-10' ave.). The maple was generally < 1" dbh, clonal and shrubby with a few individuals to 10-15'. Clones were generally small (< 10 yds diam.) with most trees < 8' tall. Grasses & Forbs ~ 20% cover.

When observed, the bird appeared to be foraging in the canopy of a Juniper, and I had good viewing conditions off and on for ~ 2 min as the bird hopped about. My field notes at the time read as follows: Palm Warbler (olive-backed, white breast, bright yellow undertail coverts, yellow throat, rusty crown, white eyeline Tail wagging).

I did not observe this individual sing, nor did I hear any unusual songs from birds that I was unfamiliar with that morning (I am doing my Ph.D. research on the relationship between bird species richness and habitat heterogeneity, and have done 26 mornings of bird surveys this spring, so I am familiar with most of the local birds' songs and calls).

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: Not observed to sing or call.

Behavior: Flitting and hopping through canopy of Juniper. Tail wagging.

Habitat: See other side.

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

The combination of features noted unmistakably identified it as a palm warbler.

What experience have you had with this and similar species: During Fall 1974, while doing the "Columbia River Riparian Habitat Inventory" bird studies for the Univ. of Washington, I and Garet Munger observed a flock of palm warblers on the cobblestone-shrubby willow river's edge at Wenatchee WA. This was only my second observation of this warbler species during 15 years of professional ecological

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: field work the we  
Birds of N. America, Robbins et al. > merely confirmatory. Description cited earlier was written prior to use of these books.

A Field Guide to Western Birds, Peterson.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

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

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

Observer: Eric E. Hanson

Signature: Eric E. Hanson

Address: 178 East 100 North  
Logan, UT 84321

Other observers who independently identified this bird: I was alone.

Date prepared: Eric E. Hanson 25 June 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen  
3868 Marsha Drive  
West Valley City, Utah 84120