

78-1986

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Black-and-white warbler

Scientific Name: *Mniotilta varia*

Date: Dec. 15 1986

Time: 2:30 PM

Length of time observed: about 15 minutes.
initially about 7 minutes
then secondly, 8 minutes

Number: one

Age: unknown
(Adult)

Sex: ♀

Location: South side of Brigham
Young University

Latilong: Provo's latitude/longitude

Elevation (if known): Provo elevation

Distance to bird: from around 8' - 30'

Light conditions: Good, sunlight from
south-west - westerly direction

Optical equipment: 7x35 binoculars

Weather: clear, in the 30's

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

The bird was small than a house sparrow (which was harassing it when first seen.) It was primarily black and white in color. It's underparts were unmarked, except for light to moderately gray streaking on the bird's flanks. The primary S.D. mark was the crown. It was black on the sides of the crown with a white median stripe running right down the center of the crown. There was also a very light eye stripe, gray in color. The bird's nape ~~was~~ was black and the mantle was streaked black and white. The wings had 2 strong wing-bars on the middle and greater coverts, they were white in color. The tail seemed shorter than what would be in proper proportion for the warbler. The bill also seemed slightly curved. I didn't notice marked undertail coverts as field guides show.

voice or call notes and method of delivery: Call notes heard. A little higher pitched than a yellow-rumped warbler. More like an orange crowned warbler.

Behavior: - First seen foraging on ~~the~~ rocks along side a small stream. It bathed in the stream and would occasionally fly into a brushy Oregon grape along the stream. The second time seen foraging on an old cottonwood tree. The bird began foraging from branches radiated from the tree ~~trunk~~ trunk and crept along the trunk ascending head first up the main branches, and would occasionally chase insects down the trunk and branches. ~~It~~ For an entire ~~8~~ ~~minutes~~ minutes I never saw the warbler feeding on any of the smaller branches, only on the larger ones.

Habitat: Brushy stream Side when first seen. And an old cottonwood in open, park like habitat when seen the second time. It was seen about 80m from the initial location the second time.

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

~~Black and white~~
Black-throated-grey Warbler. The crown ~~was~~ had a median strip through it, the B-t-G doesn't. B-t-G has a black ~~throat~~ throat and more solid colored back, and B-t-G had ~~an~~ unmarked throat and obviously streaked back.
Black-pollied Warbler - Fall ♀ has extensive olive tinge, this bird lacked that color. ♂ resembles ♀ in full coloration.
Yellow-rumped Warblers. Also in area (unusual as well, no?). Yellow flanks and rumped in ♂ & ♀. Yellow throats in ♂. Tail spots and different foraging strategies.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I've seen ♂ Black and white warblers in spring migration, Jan 15, 1974 at Laguna Dam, Calif. Seen Black-throated grey warblers in spring at Cibola NWR Arizona and breeding ♂ & ♀ birds in Pinaleno Mts Arizona. Yellow Rumped Warbler seen often in winter at Yuma Az area, and breeding birds seen at White Mts Az, Pinaleno Mts Az, California and in Utah. I've never seen a Black-pollied Warbler.

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

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, was consulted to compare w/ similar species and plumage patterns. My ~~mind~~ mind was made-up and decision as to birds identity at the time of observing the bird.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

As far as I know, it is the ~~last~~ latest ~~documented~~ winter record of this species in Utah, besides being an essentially eastern bird.

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

None.

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

Observer: James H. Taylor

Signature: 

Address: 1334 N 900 E Provo Utah
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Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared: Jan 25 1987

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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