
First record of Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* from western Peru

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* is a Nearctic–Neotropical migrant that winters primarily in continental northern South America, with a scattering of records as far away as Argentina, Chile and the Galápagos Islands^{1,4,6}. It generally occurs east of the Andes, from Colombia south to northern Peru and east to the Guianas, but most winter records are from Colombia and Venezuela⁶. In Peru it is found primarily in the north-east, in the canopy and at the edge of humid Amazonian forest. Most records are from dpto. Loreto, but there are also specimens from as far west as Amazonas and south to Huánuco, and a sight record from Ucayali¹¹ (T. S. Schulenberg unpubl. data). In Colombia, *D. striata* occurs rarely west of the Andes⁶, and there is a single published sight record from the Chocó region of north-west Ecuador⁹. The only other record from west of the Andes is of a vagrant collected near Valdivia, Chile⁵, which is the sole record for that country.

On 21 January 2007, RTC collected an immature female *D. striata* in a narrow riparian and agricultural strip along the río Pisco, in an arid valley in western Peru. The locality is near km 48 on the Pisco–Ayacucho Road, dpto. Ica (13°39'40"S 75°46'07"W; 620 m). The bird was with a mixed-species flock c.7 m up in the canopy of an *Acacia macracantha* tree. A study skin was prepared by DS and was deposited in the bird collection at the Centro de Ornitología y Biodiversidad (CORBIDI) in Lima (field number RTC P-14).

On its South American wintering grounds, the only species with which *D. striata* is likely to be confused is Bay-breasted Warbler *D. castanea*. The latter, however, is unknown as far south as Peru, and the specimen is readily distinguished from *D. castanea* by its yellow legs and feet, white undertail-coverts, lemon-yellow breast, lack of emargination of the sixth primary, and lack of buffy or chestnut coloration on the underparts^{7,8,10}. Features that identify the bird as an immature include lack of dark centres to the back feathers, greyish-olive rump, indistinct dusky streaking on the breast and flanks, and brown flight-feathers^{7,8}.

No other *D. striata* were encountered on 21 January, and a return visit to the area in February 2007 yielded no further individuals, despite searches of similar habitat for numerous kilometres downstream towards Pisco. Although other Nearctic–Neotropical migrants are occasionally reported from the west slope of the Peruvian Andes (e.g., American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*¹¹), we have no reason to believe that this record represents anything other than a lone vagrant individual.

Intensive studies of wood warblers during fall migration in North America indicated that young birds were disproportionately represented among vagrants; c.90% of vagrant warblers in both coastal and interior California were immature^{2,3}. The inexperience and immaturity of this *D. striata* individual likely contributed to its occurrence far from its usual wintering distribution and habitat.

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