

EXTRA-LIMITAL RECORD OF A MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*DENDROICA MAGNOLIA*) FROM THE SOUTHERN COAST MOUNTAINS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Abstract -- I located a male Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) beside Lillooet Lake on 23 June 1996 while conducting a breeding bird survey. This appears to be the first record of a Magnolia Warbler for the Pemberton area of the Coast Mountains.

Key words: British Columbia, *Dendroica magnolia*, extralimital record, Lillooet Lake, Magnolia Warbler.

Magnolia Warblers (*Dendroica magnolia*) are among the most striking of the wood-warblers (Parulidae). Although they breed mainly in eastern North America, they also occur west of the Rocky Mountains into British Columbia (Hall 1994; Campbell *et al.* 2001). Breeding by the Magnolia Warbler has been confirmed in the central and eastern portions of the province, with the southern-most documented British Columbia breeding site at Blaeberry River, near Golden in the Southern Interior Mountains Ecoprovince (Campbell *et al.* 2001). Dense, young coniferous forest forms suitable breeding habitat for this species (Hall 1994), but in British Columbia most nesting birds inhabit unlogged mature conifer-aspen forests, often close to water (Campbell *et al.* 2001).

While conducting my annual breeding bird survey near Pemberton on 23 June 1996, I was alerted to an unfamiliar song on my 45th stop at 09:07 Pacific Daylight Time. After a short scan of the vegetation adjacent to the roadside, I located a male Magnolia Warbler in a small Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), where it was singing and apparently foraging. I was attracted to the warbler originally by its song, which I did not recognize, as I was unfamiliar with this species previously. The song initially resembled that of a Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), but I was not convinced of this, so scanned the area with my 8 x 30 binoculars. I quickly located the bird approximately 20 m. away and quickly realized that this was not a Warbling Vireo. I first noticed the broad white supercilium of the male, which differs from the similar Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). Also noticeable were the black streaking on the chest contrasting against the brilliant yellow undersides and the white band on the medial part of the tail (Dickinson 1999; Sibley 2000). I observed the bird for approximately 45 seconds. After I returned home, I played a recording of the song, and it matched what I heard in the field. The bird was observed beside Lillooet Lake, about 1.5 km. east of the mouth of Joffre Creek (50° 17' N., 122° 35' W.), and about 16 km. east of Pemberton, British Columbia. This site is adjacent to a forest service road that runs parallel to a hydroelectric transmission corridor. No previous or subsequent observations have been made, in spite of annual visits to the exact site from 1994 through 2002.

This appears to be the first record of a Magnolia Warbler from the Pemberton area and the only record for the southern mainland portion of the Coast and Mountains Ecoprovince of Demarchi *et al.* (1990). The Coast Mountains south of Kemano appear to be beyond the limits of breeding and summer occurrences of Magnolia Warblers. Records from the south coast are predominately from the late summer and early autumn (Campbell *et al.* 2001: Figure 42), so are likely migrants. A recent southward range expansion has been proposed for interior British Columbia (Campbell *et al.* 2001:49). The bird that I observed in late June could have been a late north-bound migrant. Alternatively, occurrence this late in June suggests the possibility of a breeding, or at least territorial, individual. Small numbers of Magnolia Warblers could be attracted to the extensive young regenerating coniferous stands created by logging and powerline transmission corridors in the southern Coast Mountains and may breed erratically.

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BOOK REVIEWS



BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, by John Kemper. A Falcon Guide, Falcon Publishing, Helena, Montana, 1999. 400 pages, field guide size, illustrations, maps, graphs, soft cover. \$18.95 U.S.; \$27.95 Can.

Here is a comprehensive, detailed, up-to-date guide to 81 prime locations encompassing 300 sites with 101 site maps in the northern two-thirds of California. The annotated checklist gives regional distribution and has bar graphs showing seasonal abundance. One hundred and seventy-three species considered to be "specialty" birds are treated separately, six to a page, each with comments, key sites and range map with seasonal abundance. Many of California's specialty birds are common to British Columbia, but you will have to travel south to find Mountain Plover, Pinyon Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, California Thrasher and Tricolored Blackbird, to name just a few. After the checklist, there is a list of nearly 200 vagrants and accidentals - the "unexpected" species. Next, there are seven appendices covering everything from addresses and phone numbers [national parks, wildlife refuges and bird festivals], four pages of references and rare bird alert numbers to birding organizations, campground reservations and recent bird name changes.

In the introduction, Kemper extols the natural diversity and birding in northern California. In 1999, the official species list was 569, including a large number of vagrants from Eurasia and Alaska. Offshore birding is arguably the best in the Northern Hemisphere. Winter concentrations of waterfowl and raptors in the wildlife refuges can be spectacular. Birders, when not in pursuit of their favourite feathered animals, can enjoy California's grand scenery from surf-battered shores to rugged mountains, including the spectacular 14,162 foot [approximately 4,317 m.] volcanic cone of Mt. Shasta and Mt. Whitney, the

highest point in the "lower forty-eight." Northern California is home to many species of trees, some of them the World's oldest and grandest. For a change from the serious activity of birding and enjoying the scenery, there are the famous wineries of the Napa Valley. Enough day dreaming.

After the introduction, Kemper describes California's land forms. Then, there are descriptions of the various habitats within these land forms. Next, 81 birding locations, each of which is broken down into various sites. The excellent maps are large, clear and easy to read. One of my criteria for a good map is one that I can use in the field without fumbling for my reading glasses. Sites, designated by large white numbers on 1/4 inch [6.4 mm.] black squares, give quick and easy reference.

My birding experiences, over a number of years, in northern California have been in: the Klamath Basin [great winter waterfowl spectacles], the Bay area, Muir Woods [my first Spotted Owl], Marin County headlands, north coast beaches, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and various other places in the Sierra Nevada. I mention this not just to let the reader know that the reviewer has "been there, done that," but perhaps more importantly, that my evaluation is based on personal knowledge of many of the places described in this guide.

Here is a typical site description: **#10 Klamath basin:** A binocular symbol means that the site is described in **The California Wildlife Viewing Guide**. [Some sites have a symbol for wheel chair accessibility.] Under the site name, there are the following headings: **habitat, specialty birds** [whether resident, summer or winter], **other key birds, best times to bird and directions** with a full page, readable map [with these directions and the map, one would be hard pressed to get lost or even bewildered for an hour.] **The birding** consists of up to two pages enlarging on the information given above. After **The Birding**, there is **Additional Help** with these headings: **The Northern California Atlas and Gazetteer map grid, elevation, hazards, nearest services, camping and where to get more information.**

John Kemper has produced an outstanding bird finding guide, uncluttered with repetitious lists and filler pictures. There are black-and-white photographs, but only enough to add some visual excitement to a book dedicated wholly to bird finding in that incredibly diverse area that is northern California. The editing has been thorough. The design is pleasing. This book will stand up to considerable hard field use. **Birding northern California** is an example of what a bird finding guide should be. Finally, I would like to quote Debra Love Shearwater of pelagic birding fame, "A much-needed book. The bar graphs and range maps set it far ahead of anything else in print." Don't go birding in northern California without it.

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