

Prairie Warbler Colonization of a Right-of-way in Lewis County, New York: The Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) is generally a southern species and breeds primarily in the southern portion of New York (Bonney, R. E., Jr. 1988. Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor*. pages 388-389 in R.F. Andrle and J.R. Carroll, (eds.), *The Atlas Of Breeding Birds In New York State*. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca. 551 pp.). There have been no confirmed breeding records of this species in the northern portion of the state prior to 1988. G. A. Smith (1988. Prairie Warbler as a regular breeder at Alvar sites in Jefferson County. *Kingbird*. 38:247-248.) recorded a minimum of 10 pairs of Prairie Warbler at the Chaumont Barrens and singing males at three Alvar sites in northwestern Jefferson County. In addition, a singing male was recorded at El Dorado Beach in southwestern Jefferson County (Smith *idem*). A probable breeding record also has been recorded in Essex County and a possible breeding record was reported in northern Lewis County (Bonney *op. cit.*). We recorded five singing male Prairie Warbler along a 14.5 km (9 mi.) section of power line right-of-way in northern Lewis County from 3 June to 19 June 1991. This section of right-of-way is located in the Black River Valley Ecozone (Will, G. B., R. D. Stumvoll, R. F. Gotie, and E. S. Smith. 1982. The ecological zones of northern New York. *NY Fish and Game J.* 29:20-23). The right-of-way consists of two adjacent power lines, 70 m and 50 m wide, respectively, with a 10 m strip of trees between them. Both power lines were constructed during the 1930's, and the right-of-ways are regularly maintained on an 8-year cycle using a combination of selective herbicide treatments (K. Finch, pers. comm.). The topography of the area is rolling hills, with the edge of the right-of-way dominated by trees of White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*), Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), and Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The right-of-way is generally open, interspersed with shrubs of Meadowsweet (*Spiraea latifolia*) and Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), and saplings of White Pine, Trembling Aspen, and Gray Birch (*Betula populifolia*). The majority of sightings occurred where softwoods were prevalent on the edge of the right-of-ways. Although we walked only a small portion of the right-of-way, we suspect that Prairie Warbler has colonized much of this and other right-of-way of similar size and habitat in northern New York. Regularly maintained right-of-ways of sufficient width probably provide suitable breeding habitat for Prairie Warbler. These sightings indicate that right-of-ways in the northern portion of New York need to be examined more closely in order to accurately estimate the breeding distribution of Prairie Warbler in this region.

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