

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? MacGillivray's Warbler How many? 1Location? Eagle City Co. Park - (North Hardin County)Type of habitat? Brushy tangle along park's edge up the hill from Iowa River GreenbeltWhen? date(s): June 2, 1995 time: 11:15 a.m. ~~to~~ for approximately 5 secondsWho? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: noneothers before or after you: none

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I had stepped along the edge of this tangle and was standing and trying to find what bird was singing this unfamiliar warbler song. There were several birds in the tangle. I heard one or two loud "chip" notes then and zeroed in on the area of the chips. Then out into view popped a warbler 8'-9' high ^{in the tangle.} It was like a breeding-plumaged Mourning Warbler. It was yellow underneath, had a dark green back, and a ^{dark} gray head with a definite black smudge below the gray hood on its upper breast. It was blackish around its eye area. But it had very vivid white eye crescents above and below its eye like a breeding-plumaged Franklin's Gull would have. I had a very good look at it and it was a broken white eye-ring that was incomplete both in front of and behind the eye. I was very surprised! The bird moved and I did not see it again. The unfamiliar song continued and I tried to find the bird singing but didn't, and then I had to go.

In "Spring" this should not be mistaken for any other warbler. A ♂ Mourning warbler lacks the vivid eye crescents. A Connecticut warbler has a complete white eyering and no black smudge on the upper breast and the gray head is a lighter gray color. In "fall" the female and immature Mourning Warblers may show a thin, nearly complete eyering (which I have seen on mournings in the fall), but this could not be mistaken for the vivid white. Similar species and how eliminated: eye crescents of this breeding-plumaged male MacGillivray's warbler along with its very noticeable black smudge on its upper breast below its gray head.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain: _____

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Cloudy, it was somewhat dark lighting, Bird was 20 feet away estimated, 8x30 BinocsI had very good looks at the warbler.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen a few MacGillivray's out west. Have seen many Mournings and quite a few Connecticut in Iowa

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Natl. Geog. guide, Robbins' guide, Peterson's guide, Audubon Master Guide, Iowa BirdsHow long before field notes made? Right after this form completed? June 3, 1995
seeing the bird