

Prairie Warbler

5 Sep 1982

Hickory Hill Park, Johnson Co., IA

*Rick Hollis

IBL 52:124; 53:36

Record Number: 82-33

Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Rick Hollis

REFERENCE

Field Reports: IBL 52:124

Records Committee: IBL 53:36

VOTE: 5-III, 2-IV

IV, Not well seen. Confusing description.

IV, not enough detail.

III, Back pattern diagnostic for warblers, and bird probably a warbler based on olive back and wingbars. Most of doc. irrelevant.

III, Red spots of male are diagnostic.

III, As stated in doc., the chestnut/red streaking is diagnostic.

REVOTE (at meeting, 23 April 1983): no change

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

by the Records Committee

of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: Prairie warbler, Dendroica discolor

DATE SEEN: 5 Sept 1982

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Hickory Hill Park, Des Moines City, Johnson Co.

OBSERVERS: R. Hollis

DATE OF REVIEW: 23 April 1983

METHOD OF REVIEW: mail vote followed by discussion and revote

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: IV

COMMENTS: We reluctantly gave this one a IV, although the vote was close. The red streaking on the back was considered diagnostic by many of the Committee, but some felt that the bird ~~that~~ had not been seen well enough or long enough to warrant acceptance.

- Mike Newlon

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

What species? Prairie Warbler How many? 1 or moreLocation? Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City, Johnson Co (on 'South Canyon Trail')Type of habitat? Secondary Woods w. leaves down to eye levelWhen? date(s): 5 Sept 1982 time: around 9 AM toWho? your name and address: Rick Hollisothers with you: noneothers before or after you: none that I am aware of

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 was watching some warblers - a small swarm - and trying to identify several birds w. greenish backs and yellowish breasts + bellies. One was clearly a magnolia but then another flashed white tail spots. It was hard to tell what parts belonged to what bird as they would only stay in ~~few~~ view for a few seconds and when they reappeared I was never sure if I was looking at the same bird.

As they left I saw the following, briefly one one bird.

Several lines of reddish spots running longways along a green ^(olive) back ~~white~~

Yellow belly

Wings darker than back or belly

2 rather prominent wing bars

Prairie Warblers are not so rare in Md. as they are in Ia + for some reason I always forget that until hours later. If I had realized @ the time I would have tried to find the birds + written my field notes sooner.

Similar species and how eliminated: My identification is almost completely based on the lines of reddish spots (bay colored) on an olive green back. I believe this to be diagnostic

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

20-30' (est.)

7x35 Bushnells

lighting: fair - sunlight day but bird was mostly in shadows

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Previously seen several Prairies on East Coast.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Robbins, Peterson

How long before field notes made? 24 hr this form completed? 24 hr

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240