

Prairie Warbler  
1 Jul 1978

Record Number: 81-DV  
Classification: A-D

Yellow River Forest, Allamakee Co., IA  
\*T. Stone Jr.

DOCUMENTATION

Tom Stone Jr.

REFERENCE

Records Committee: IBL 64:70

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Tom Kent to Records Committee, 13 Sep 1993

VOTE (1981): 5-III, 1-IV, 1-V

V, Very unlikely date, written from book, unreliable observer. III, How long after obs. was this doc. written?

III, Best record by sight in this whole lot, maybe but date strange (only 1).

IV, Description not as good in comparison with 15. No confirmation by other observers present, as bird could not be relocated. Possibly confused with Kentucky Warbler? Light and area where seen may have been tricky.

REVOTE (1993): 7 A-D

A-D, Prairie Warblers not unusual in Yellow River Forest and time of year is excellent.

A-D, This record and previous one are a real conundrum. The first is a poor description of what likely was a Prairie Warbler while the second is a good description which may be pure wishful thinking!

A-D, Description OK. Recent records indicate this is probably a rare but regular species in the right habitat.

81-DV

13 September 1993

To: IOU Records Committee

From: Tom Kent

Re: Request for reconsideration of record

**Record:** 81-DV Prairie Warbler

**Reason for request:** Likelihood misjudged by one reviewer.

**Comment:** One reviewer states that date is unlikely. More recent experience has shown that this is not true. In fact several have been seen in Yellow River Forest in the type of habitat described by Stone. Several of Stones records were turned down because he lacked experience, made a few mistakes, and may have been influenced by looking at books while writing descriptions, as with this record. Never-the-less, the circumstances of this record now seem very likely to me and the bird is described in some detail.

1978

(a Documentation  
of a rare bird)

Tom Stone Jr.  
1632 Woodmayr Dr.  
Waterloo, IOWA

I.O.U. Fall Report

50703

#17

81-DV

1. Species: Prairie Warbler 2. 1 was a male
3. Location: Yellow River State Forest
4. Date: July 1 5. Time bird seen: 1:30 To 1:40
6. Description: Bird was about 5 inches long.  
Olive green above with rusty streaks on back and two wingbars. Black feet and bill. Underparts yellow with black streaks on flanks. Fall had open black triangle patch. ~~the bird was~~
7. Voice: not heard
8. Description of behavior: The bird was foraging on under and on logs, also on ground <sup>catching and</sup> ~~looking for~~ looking for small insects. Could have been finding food for some young. But did not show any signs of ~~was~~ nesting, having young, or being territorial.
9. Habitat - The bird was at the edge of a pine ~~tree~~ plant with <sup>blackberry</sup> ~~rusty~~ bushes, very thick, deciduous Saplings and fallen trees at edge of pine plant.
10. Similar Appearing Species: ♂ Cape May Warbler has rusty check patch. The Pine Warbler does not have a distinct check patch.
11. Distance: The bird was only about 6 feet away estimated by sight.
12. Optical Equipment: 7x50 binoculars, but ~~didn't~~ <sup>couldn't</sup> really use them because bird was so close.
13. Lighting: ~~overcast~~ overcast with a few sprinkles did not ~~of~~ affect the coloring of the bird at all because I was so close to it.

14. Similar appearing species previous experiences  
with species or similar appearing species:

I have never seen a Prairie Warbler before. But I have seen the Kittlende Warbler in Mio, Michigan in Jackson County.

15. Other observers: none, Russ Hayes, ~~Tom Stone~~<sup>father</sup>, and I, were along the

16. <sup>A</sup> I encouraged them to see <sup>if</sup> ~~we~~ could find <sup>trip</sup>

17. <sup>at</sup> again but we couldn't

18. Books: Birds of North America by "Robbins and Singer" Has a very ~~good~~ good description of the bird as I saw in the field.

19. How long after seeing the bird did you write this description: I studied the description of the bird in the book as soon as I could the day I observed it.