

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Warbler How many? 1 ♂Location? 7 mi. trail (far side) starting from Fire Tower, Yellow River S.F., Allamakee Co. IAType of habitat? Second growth deciduous trees near deeper woodland along old fence row.When? date(s): May 28, 1988 time: 11:25 am to 11:28 amWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Noneothers before or after you: None that I know 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 walking along the back side of the long trail that starts at the fire tower at Yellow River S.F. (this trail also returns to the fire tower) about to reenter the woods when I heard the distinctive song of a Prairie Warbler along an old fence row overgrown with second growth deciduous trees approx. 40 to 50 feet high with many smaller trees and shrubs along the fence line. I heard the bird sing four series of notes of 8 to 10 notes each before I finally found it near the top of a deciduous tree. It was sitting out in the open as I watched it ~~in~~ ^{through} my binoculars. The bird was bright yellow on the throat, breast, belly, flanks and through the under tail coverts. The legs and bill were black. The tail, wings and back were an olive green color. The distance was great enough that I could not see any other markings on the back. Distance approx. 75-100 feet. The bird had bold black streaking starting just at the bend of the wing and continuing down the sides through the flanks to about where the vent area was. The bird had a thin black streak through the eye. There was a black mark starting at the eye stripe just behind the bill and going down the jaw area (sub malar) and continuing below the eye and joining the eye streak behind the eye. The patch between the eye and the black area was yellow. The song was a series of zee, zee, zee notes going up the scale. (See back)

Similar species and how eliminated: No other bird has this type of song. No other warbler is yellow below with black streaks on sides, olive green above, yellow superciliary line and black cheek patch below eye with yellow center (See drawing)

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny, excellent viewing conditions. Sun full on bird as it sang from near top of deciduous tree in open using 10x40 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen many Prairie Warblers in Iowa.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? Time of sighting this form completed? 23 hours

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

How many? 1

What species? Francis Warbler

Location? Yellow River, IA

Type of habitat? open field

What date(s)? May 28, 1955 Time: 11:25 am to 11:35 am

What your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 334 Fairfield St, Waterloo, IA 50703

Others with you? None

Others 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

The bird sang about five or six series of these ascending zee zee notes as I was watching and then flew from the tree into a nearby deciduous tree but did not sing again. I did not see it in the other tree after it landed. I looked for it for about 4 or 5 minutes but did not find it again. I then left to go back to the fire tower.



Similar species and how eliminated: No other bird has this type of song. No other bird has this type of song. No other bird has this type of song.

Do you or anyone else have reservations about identification? No

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

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen many Francis Warblers.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes were made? 23 hours