

DOCUMENTATION

SPECIES: **Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*)**

HOWMANY: 1

LOCATION & HABITAT: Henry County; just west of entrance to Mud Creek Park. Area of brushy, overgrown vegetation populated with young sapling trees about 15-20 feet high.

DATE: June 2, 1997

TIME & VIEWING CONDITIONS: Approximately 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. C.D.T. Skies were cloudy with a steady breeze.

FIRST OBSERVATION MADE BY: Pam Allen

DOCUMENTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant Street,
West Des Moines, IA 50265

OTHERS WHO SAW BIRD: Reid Allen

DESCRIPTION OF BIRD: This very vocal warbler was constantly calling and at first difficult to locate. It allowed us to approach and view it for about 25 minutes at distances from 50 to 20 feet. The bird's song deviated somewhat from other Prairie Warblers that we have heard and observed in that it added a two note phrase to the end of its "Field Sparrow-like" ascending buzzy notes. That was what originally attracted our attention to try and find this "singer." This male Prairie Warbler was bright yellow on its breast, belly and under its throat and on part of its face. The most noticeable feature was its striking black and yellow facial pattern. There was a narrow black stripe running from the bill back through the eye and then diffused a little behind the eye. There was a semi-circle narrow black line down under the eye which touched the upper line in front and behind the bird's eye. The eye was dark and there was bright yellow just below the eye (sort of making the black and yellow markings look like a tea cup with no handle and colored as illustrated in the hand-drawing below). NOTE: I am NOT an artist so please refer to Reid's photos for a much better image!



There was a narrow bright yellow band extending from behind the eye and over the top of the bill. The top of the head, neck and back of the bird appeared to be greyish-olive-yellow-green on the top of the head to a darker greyish olive color on the rump and a greyer olive green on the tail. The undertail was not seen clearly nor could a specific leg color be determined. There were also black short streaks along the upper side of the breast, extending down the sides to the legs of the bird. **SEE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY REID I. ALLEN WHICH ARE ENCLOSED.**

SIMILAR SPECIES AND

HOW ELIMINATED: Pine Warbler would not have the unique facial pattern of the bird observed nor would it be as small.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

WITH SPECIES: Have seen several male Prairie Warblers in Iowa during spring and summer.

EQUIPMENT:

Bausch & Lomb Elite 8x42 binoculars; photographed by Reid I. Allen with a Canon A2E camera with a 400 mm lens.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

None before making field notes and then verifying identification by consulting the FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, National Geographic Society,

Second Edition, 1987.

HOW LONG BEFORE
FIELD NOTES MADE:

Just after observation of bird.

HOW LONG BEFORE THIS
FORM COMPLETED:

August 1, 1997.