

Yellow-throated Warbler

3 May 1997

L. Ahquabi, Warren Co., IA

*Jim Sinclair

Sutton's Warbler; IBL 67:91, 68:86

Record Number: 97-15

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Jim Sinclair, 810 N. B St., Indianola [*10/1/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 67:91

Records Committee: IBL 68:86

VOTE: 7 A-D on Sutton's Warbler

A-D, Sutton's Warbler (Northern Parula x Yellow-throated Warbler hybrid). The plumage and song match the description of this extremely rare hybrid as given in Warblers of the Americas and Bent's Life Histories.

A-D, Incredible. However, when I posted a description and an electronic request for information, a friend from West Virginia, who as a kid followed "Sutton's Searchers" around, was ready to drop everything and drive to Iowa to see the bird if it could be relocated. Although it isn't evident in the write-up, Sinclair was unaware that this bird even had a name until doing some research on this odd-ball hybrid.

A-D, A perfect description of Sutton's Warbler, but I'd like to have seen the description written before all the literature had been reviewed.

A-D as a hybrid of Yellow-throated Warbler (not a separate species).

A-D Sutton's, Interesting, careful observation. I am becoming more skeptical of reporting certain warblers based on hearing alone!

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

97-15

What species? 'Sutton's' Warbler How many? 1

Location? Lake Aquatic, St. PK., Warren Co.

Type of Habitat? Oak-hickory-buckeye (the only greenery)

When? date(s): 5/5/97 time: 7:30 am to 7:35

Who? your name and address: Jim Sinclair, 810 21st St. Indianola

Others with you:

Others before or after you:

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Bird was foraging in buckeyes from 15 to 40 ft. up. Song strongly resembled Northern Parula's - was given in pairs and had a burlyier quality which made locating the bird by sound quite easy.

The bird was yellow-throated Warbler size.

From the back the bird appeared medium to dark bluish-gray with a patch of olive wash in the middle of the upper back. Dark wings with two distinct wing bars. The bird's crown and face were dark with a white eye-brow stripe ending slightly behind the eye. The neck patch was indistinct to the point of being only a pale shadow. The yellow throat ended abruptly at the upper breast. The quality of the yellow was not quite of the richness.

Similar species: how eliminated:

What an interesting question. If the bird had not been singing I suppose one could have shrugged it off as an atypical yellow-throated Warbler. However the song in combination with the olive back patch definitely indicated Ti. Parula heritage some where down the line.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no

If yes, explain: Believe it or not the bird was instantly recognizable for what it was

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

Lighting was good considering it was an overcast morning. Bird was as close as 25 yds and as low as 15 ft. 10x42 field glasses.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Audubon mag, Peterson, FLG, Audubon Encyclopedia of N. A. Birds, Wood Warbler, World, Harrison, Warblers of the Americas, Curson, Birds of America, Peters

How long before field notes made? 10 min this form completed? 16 days America, Peters

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).

that one usually associates with Yellow-throated Warblers. The throat and breast were bordered with black which also ended abruptly with one or two teardrops of black extending to the upper flanks. The rest of the breast and belly were white.