

Prairie Warbler
5 Sep 1977
Rathbun Res., Lucas ? Co., IA
*Gary Wymore
IBL 47:146

Record Number: 81-DT
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Gary Wymore

REFERENCE

Field Reports: IBL 47:146

VOTE (1981): 6-III, 1-IV

IV, fall unusual, description OK, don't know observer, written
12 days later.

III, OK documentation - fall date (Sep 15).

III, Seems acceptable - characteristics well seen and bird
identified before consulting field guide. Rather long period
before writing documentation.

Species PRAIRIE WARBLER, DENDROICA DISCOLOR 2. Number: 2Location COUNTY LINE ACCESS, LAKE RATHBUN RESERVOIRDate: SEPTEMBER 5, 1977 5. Time Bird seen: 12:35 to 12:45

Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): Approximately 4 inches in length and slender in terms of body shape. Coloring consisted of prominent yellow breast and underpart black streaking along sides. The back was olive-grey drab. Legs dark. White wing bars. Yellow and black striped cheek and eye pattern. Brownish wings contrasted sharply against yellow underparts below and olive drab of back. No chestnut markings visible on back.

Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD.

Description of behavior: somewhat secretive, and constantly wagging tail. "Crawled" along tree limbs gleaning insects from the undersides of leaves. Responded readily to "bishing".
 Habitat - general: West facing slope of oak-hickory woods, with honeylocust adjacent, small pond bay specific: IN young honeylocust (15-18 ft.), had been raining earlier in day and very moist conditions prevailed under tree canopy, with water droplets on leaves.

Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: NONE

Distance (how measured)? 15-18 feet, judging by approx. tree height. 12. Optical equipment: Binoculars - 7x wide angle sans ^{Streff}Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): overcast sky, no bright reflective sunlight. Birds near tree tops in canopy, but occasionally dropping down lower.Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Never observed before.

Other observers: NONE

Did the others agree with your identification?

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Consulted Birds of North America by Robbins, Bruun, Zim & Singer and A Field Guide to the Birds by Peterson. I had already decided upon the bird's identity and these books only further confirmed my decision.

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? Twelve days.Signature Gary Wymore Address: 847 S. WardDate: September 17, 1977 City, State: Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

Halmi, N. S. 1977. Field reports. Iowa Bird Life 47:142-148

"Prairie Warblers are very rare in Iowa; 2 seen near L. Rathbun on September 5 and well documented may be the first fall record for the state (GW)"