

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

not concerning
TKWhat species? Hooded Warbler (Female) How many? 1Location? Turkey Creek Wildlife AreaType of habitat? Near an oxbow, dominant trees were elm, silver maple, cotton-wood. along the edge of the woods.When? date(s): July 22, 1982 time: 3:00 pm to 3:20 pmWho? your name and address: Craig Hensley 13 Ridge Road Atlantic, Iowa 50022others with you: Noneothers 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 tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

This bird was a small warbler-like bird with a thin beak and slender body. The body was colored with yellow and light olive. The head, breast and belly were yellow while the back and wings were a light olive, much lighter than shown in both the Peterson field guide and the Golden Key field guide (I used these books for comparison in the field). The tail was yellow colored but I could not distinguish any white or yellow tail spots. The bird made no sounds but I noticed the following behavior: the bird was moving among the branches of trees at heights of 3 to 10 feet. At one point, it appeared at the edge of the woods with a caterpillar in its beak. It was very cautious and acted nervous, similar to other birds actions when taking food to young. Finally, it flew to the ground amongst the wood nettle and in a moment emerged to a dead branch, minus the caterpillar. It rested here momentarily and then flew back into the trees. One additional characteristic that I continually noticed was that this bird constantly was flicking its tail, spreading its tail feathers (I later read that --->

Similar species and how eliminated:

The only species that I believed was similar was the yellow warbler, in fact, when I first saw it without binoculars, I thought that it was a yellow warbler. However, this bird lacked the red streaks from its body. Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny, sun was at my back, distance was about 60 feet and I was using 8 x 30 Bushnell Binoculars,

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen both the male and female hooded warbler on other birdwatching ventures, mostly studied the male.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Referred to the guides mentioned above and then consulted the Audubon bird guide.

How long before field notes made? at same time this form completed? one day

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

Wet
1/11/82

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Location? Turkey Creek Wildlife Area

Type of habitat? Near an oxbow, dominant trees were elm, silver maple, cotton-wood, along the edge of the woods.

When date(s): July 22, 1982 time: 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Who? Your name and address: Craig Hensley 13 Ridge Road Atlantic, Iowa 50022

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, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention notes and behavior.

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the female hooded warbler will do this). I must also include that upon referring to the Audubon Field Guide, and studying the photograph of the female hooded warbler and reading the literature, I concluded that this bird which I saw must be a female hooded warbler. I did not find a nest in the locality where the bird dropped to the ground. I hope that I will see this bird again in the future. I hope that this information will be useful.