

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Common Yellowthroat How many? 1  
Location? Morgan Creek Co. P., Linn Co., 1 mile NW of Cedar Rapids, IA  
Type of Habitat? Pond and stream bordered by grass and shrubs  
When? date(s): 27 November 1992 time: 2:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.  
Who? your name and address: Jeff Dankert, 4402 Markle Rd #7, La Crosse WI 54601  
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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Entire upper parts were olive-gray (drab). Throat and breast were yellow. Belly was white. Undertail coverts were yellow. Tail was short. The lores, cheeks, and side of head showed evidence of black "mask," but was duller than in breeding male. There was a sharply defined, straight line/border between lower edge of "mask" and yellow throat.

The bird was "wren-like," actively foraging near or on the ground along the shore of the pond. It only uttered a sound once, a hoarse "chip" as it flew in front of me.

I watched the bird at a distance for 5 minutes, lost it for 5 minutes, and then relocated it at a close distance (15-20 ft). My description above is based on this second sighting.

Similar species; how eliminated:

I did not confuse this warbler with any other warbler. Its behavior and field marks were diagnostic of the Common Yellowthroat

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No  
If yes, explain:

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

Overcast, but snow cover cast light on the area; Bird observed at 15-20 ft (estimated)

7x35 "Swift" Binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Previous sightings: many;

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Reported to Bird Hotline (319/338-9881) day of sighting

How long before field notes made? 24 hr this form completed? on 29 Nov 92

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