

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Pine Warbler How Many? One

Location: Hiclory Hill Park, Iowa City

Type of habitat?: Oak tree near pavilion

When? Date(s): Sat, May 15, 1993 time: about 7:35 am

Who? your name and address:

James Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, IA 52240-9148

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.*

After searching the park for an hour I returned to the Dodge St. entrance lot and decided to check the trees near the building as they have been very fruitful the last two weeks. The large oak tree had the most activity with about ten warbler types moving about. A quick inspection located Yellow-rumped, Palm, Tennessee, and Warbling Vireo. Then my attention was drawn to a yellowish bird that seemed slightly larger. It was perched facing north in full view. The beak seemed larger than the smaller warblers. The head and back were olive/brown. The wings were dark with two white wingbars. The neck and breast were yellow. It fed as a warbler or vireo. The bill was not shaped like that of a vireo but was longer and larger than that of a Tennessee Warbler. Under tail coverts were lighter toward white. A quick check of Peterson's Eastern Birds narrowed the list to Pine Warbler. I re-searched for streaking but saw none and concluded it was a female.

*Similar species and how eliminated:* Shape was not a vireo or a flycatcher. "No other bright yellow-breasted warbler, lacking other conspicuous marks, has white wing bars." R.T. Peterson. (In spring...JES)

*Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?*

No one else was with me.

*Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:* Looking SE and later W the morning light was from the east. View was unobstructed from about 25 feet for about two minutes using Swift Audubon 8.5 x 44 binoculars.

*Previous experience with species and similar ones:* Have seen a few previously.

*References and persons consulted before writing description:*

Peterson's Eastern Guide was used on the spot; National Geographic and Audubon field guides were consulted within a half hour.

*How long before field notes made?* No notes made.

*How long before this form completed?* Same day.