

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Warbler (Dendroica discolor) How many? 1 maleLocation? East side of Sweet Marsh, Bremer Co.Type of habitat? Boggy Yellow Birch area turning into Oak and Hickory mixWhen? date(s): May 12, 1983 time: 10:40 am to 10:48 amWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Noothers before or after you: No, not to see the male or hear it, female was seen next day at same location by myself and Bob Myers.

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.

I was watching and listening to a large amount of warbler activity all around me at the edge of a Yellow Birch stand near a boggy area when I heard the distinctive song of a male Prairie Warbler. It sounded just like the one I had watched and heard on 5/30/82 near Lansing, IA and the many I had seen and heard in Virginia along the coast. It sang for about 5 or 6 minutes while I was trying to locate it in an Oak tree.

I finally located the bird about 80 feet up in the tree. When it looked down at me I could see the black stripe through the eye and the black stripe running from the back of the bill below the "cheek". The "cheek" was yellow. The bill was dark. The throat, breast and belly was bright yellow. The undertail coverts were white, and its under tail was white. The bird also had 2 fairly distinct wing bars on the wing. The wings were a dark brownish or greenish color. I could not see the birds back. There were heavy, distinct black streaks along its side only. The bird had dark legs. I had watched the bird sing for about a minute and was going to take a picture of it with my Celestron C90 and I could not locate it again. It stopped singing and I could not find it with my binoculars after that. The bird also wagged its tail, but only 2 times.

Similar species and how eliminated: No other warbler this color with the black stripe through the eye and the black stripe extending down in front of and below the eye, with dark bold black stripes down the side. No other warbler has a song that buzzes up the scale in a chromatic fashion like the prairie.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Bright overcast, from approx. 75 to 80 feet in top of Oak tree using 7x35mm Bausch + Lomb Roof Prism binoculars.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Saw a male of this species on 5/30/82. It was also singing at the Lansing Wildlife Area N. of Lansing, Iowa, Allamakee Co. I have also seen and heard many Prairie Warblers on the East Coast of Virginia in 1976 through 1978 while living there.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 1 Hr. this form completed? 6 Hrs.

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