

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) How many? 1Location? 4 mi. from first turn-off at Lansing Wildlife Area 3 mi N. of Lansing Allamakee Co.Type of habitat? Clearcut second growth, mostly overgrown with sumac and other saplingsWhen? date(s): May 30, 1982 time: 11:15 to 12:15Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Noothers before or after you: Bob Myers, Joe Schauffenbuel

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 Prairie Warbler was "found" by Bob Myers on May 24, and also seen by Joe Schauffenbuel on May 29. I drove to the location that Bob had given me and immediately heard the bird singing. The song was a series of "zee", "zee", "zee" phrased starting about mid scale and ascending upward chromatically. Each song consisted of from nine to 12 of the "zee" notes. All notes had a buzzy characteristic to them. An unmistakable song!

The bird was singing from an open to semi-open perch from ground level to 60 feet up a tree. I viewed the bird through my telescope several times and one time it flew to within 6 feet of me, in the open in a sparsely branched sapling. When it was this close to me I could easily see the reddish-brown streaks on its back. The top of its head, back and rump were an olive color; tail color was a dark olive gray; the undertail coverts were white; feet, legs and bill were black; the breast and throat were yellow with black streaking (heavy streaks) on its sides. The bird had two white wing bars on olive-gray to black wings. Its head pattern was distinctive with a black eyestripe and a ~~thin~~ thin black mustache running from the base of the bill below the eye; other areas around the eye were yellow. The only time I noted the tail pumping characteristic was when the bird was near the ground in a sumac or small sapling. When higher up in a sapling or in a tree it did not pump its tail. The bird would sing for a long time from its perch if not disturbed. But if approached it would sing a few more times and then fly to a new perch. I took about 10 photos of the bird from 28 feet and 40 feet.

Similar species and how eliminated: Palm Warbler also wags tail but has streaking on the throat and also has a solid brown cap; this bird did not. Palm's ^(song) call is also different.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Excellent viewing, sun shining with bird sitting out in full view while singing most of the time. Viewing distance was 6 feet to 90 feet measured by focus scale on my camera lens. Viewed through 400 mm Soligor lens on Nikkormat FTN camera, Bushnell Spacemaster telescope with 20x eyepiece and B+L Roof Prism Binoculars, 7x35 mm.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen a number of Prairie Warblers along the coast while in Virginia, 1976-1977. Have seen lots of Palm Warblers.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 5 1/2 hrs. this form completed? 7 hrs.

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