

Jim Fuller
6 Longview Knoll
Iowa City IA 52240

DOCUMENTATION of RARE BIRD

SPECIES: Prarie Warbler (adult male)

LOCATION: Forest edge of a semi-open area at the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest, Lee County.

DATE: 15 May, 1992 (6:35-6:40 AM) 19 May, 1992 (6:15AM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240

OTHERS: First reported by Bob Myers. With me on second trip was Tom Kent. MOB at other times.

DESCRIPTION: On both occasions, this bird was located by listening for its upward zee-zee call. It was in the same location both times. The bird was warbler size, with generally yellow underparts and brown upperparts. The bright yellow belly was streaked along the sides with black. It had a yellow face, with a distinctive black pattern, which included an eyeline and a somewhat semicircular line on the cheek. The brown back had subtle reddish streaking on the forward portion. Bill, eye, and legs were dark.

SIMILAR SPECIES: No other warbler which has yellow underparts with black streaking has a face pattern anything like this bird did. Nobody disagreed with the ID.

VIEWING CONDITIONS and OPTICS: It was early in the morning on clear days. The sun was not a factor, even though I was looking north and northeast. Viewing distance was 30-50 feet with Swift Audubon 8.5 X 44 binoculars.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: Prarie warbler seen at this location three previous times, and once at Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City, as well as on birding trips to Florida and Georgia.

REFERENCES and FIELD NOTES: On first trip, field notes were made at car, ten minutes after observation. This form typed on 20 May. No references were consulted.