

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Yellow-throated Warbler How many? 1 (+?)  
Location? Kettleson Hogsback State Wildlife Area, west of Big Spirit Lake, Dickinson Co.  
Type of Habitat? Bur oaks scattered over open lawn  
When? date(s): June 6, 1989 time: 12:25 to 12:45  
Who? your name and address: Doug Harr, Box 65, Larchwood, Iowa 51241  
Others with you: Gary Wee, Jeff Drahota, Darwin Wackerbarth, Tim Waltz  
Others before or after you: LaVonne Foote (for about 20 minutes after my observations)

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.

Gray back; white wing bars; white below; black streaks on sides; bright yellow throat; black behind, below and in front of eyes, but not quite a "mask", because of prominent white eyebrow line. Song very loud and clear, of 7-8 syllables (that's what caught my attention and led me to sight bird--very loud for a warbler); seen pursuing another small, less distinctive warbler, perhaps a female, but no ID was possible on that individual. Both tended to stay high in treetops.

(note: this species was also sighted by LaVonne Foote, near Marble Lake (1/2 mi. NE of this site) in 1981, also in June. Good probability of a remote NW nesting area for this species, considerably outside its more usual range in Iowa)

Similar species; how eliminated: Magnolia warbler--has yellow undersides and rump--this bird definitely did not have those characteristics.

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

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. Seen variously in shade and full sun, at distances of 30 to 60 feet (estimated); viewed with 7x50 binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: This was a new species for me, but I'm familiar with Magnolia Warbler and most other common male warblers at this time of year.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None.

How long before field notes made? 2 hours this form completed? 1 week.

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