

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Brewster's Warbler hybrid How many? 1

Location? Grammer Grove W.A., Marshall County

Type of habitat? River bottom woodlands, in sapling

When? date(s): May 9, 1986 time: 8:00 to 8:01 AM

Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowa

others with you: Ramona Sommerlot

others before or after you: _____

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.

As we birded an open area of the river-bottom woods on a bird-rich morning when we found 15 species of warblers, Ramona and I saw movement in a sapling 15 to 20 yards away. We spotted a warbler out in the open so the one minute or so that we studied it was enough to see that it was an unusual one. It was olive-gray over its back and tail, all white underneath, with a brilliant yellow forehead and a blob of the same yellow as very wide wingbars, and a slight black mark through the eye. This convinced us it was a Brewster's hybrid. We did not hear its voice. After about one minute the bird flew into the thick woods behind the sapling and we didn't see it again.

Similar species and how eliminated: Blue-winged warbler - this bird was all white below with broad yellow wingbars. Golden-winged - this bird didn't have a dark throat or ear patch. Tennessee - although this bird was white underneath it had a yellow forehead. Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No + wing bars.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: light was behind us on a cloudy day - 15-20 yards, estimated - 8x binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I've never seen a Brewster's before, but the others many times.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Guides - Peterson's, Robbins, National Geographic

How long before field notes made? at once this form completed? May 15, 1985

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