

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE SPECIES

Species: Prairie Warbler, Dendroica discolor

Date and Time: 23 June 1993, 6:55-7:10 p.m.

Location: Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest, Lee County, Iowa

Description:

Adult male Prairie Warbler previously reported by Chuck Fuller on 12 June 1993. Same site where one or two were found last year and in other years past. Observed as close as 12-15 feet at eye level in good light with naked eye and 10x40 binocular. Habitat: Clearing in mature mixed woodland with second growth consisting of many small pines. Typical Dendroica size and shape. Bright yellow below and green above. Broad yellow supercilium framing green cap. Large yellow crescent below eye. Black line through eye and broad black bordering yellow crescent below eye. Fairly long black bill, slightly decurved. Heavy black streaking on sides of yellow breast. Yellow on belly fading to whitish on undertail coverts. Distinct reddish-brown streaks on green back. Two pale, thin wing-bars. Fairly long tail with extensive white in outer feathers.

Very curious and cooperative. Tail was bobbed occasionally in the manner of a Palm Warbler (Dendroica palmarum). Sang characteristic song repeatedly during my observation, from small pines or the clearing's edge.

Past Experience: I have observed Prairie Warblers twice before in Iowa during the last three years, and on several occasions in Florida (migrant) and Texas (migrant, breeding) prior to that. With a good look such as this, and watching the bird give the characteristic song, the adult male is unmistakable.

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