

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Warbler How many? 1Location? Lansing Wildlife Area (Allamakee Co)Type of habitat? lower hillside along gravel road - very brushy - short cottonwoods, sumac, boxelder - no trees taller than 15' to 20' - heavy timber on top hill + across road.When? date(s): May 23 + 24, 1982 time: (5-23) 3:20 P.M. 8:45 A.M. Bird was still singing when I left both days
(5-24) 7:15 A.M. to 7:45 A.M. I left both daysWho? your name and address: Robert K. Myers 1236 Sylvia Ave, Waterloo, Iowa 50701others with you: (wife) Betsy Myers

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.

Bird was a fairly small warbler. The throat, breast, + belly were bright yellow. There were two heavy black stripes on each side starting near head and continuing down sides. The stripes were broken nearer the head. The top of head, nape, back, + rump were olive green. The wings + tail were slightly darker (more gray-green) than back. Faint stripes could be noted on back thru scope but no color could be told. The cheek + area around eye was bright yellow with black line going thru eye to base of upper mandible. A black crescent went under eye and joined upper line at base of upper mandible. The wings showed a very faint yellowish bar like markings (not distinctive at all).

I listened to the bird sing many, many times. Each song was a series of from 8 to 10 ascending notes. (usually 8). Bird always started on + ended on same pitch - as near as I could judge. The notes were quite fast and were not buzzy as some guides suggest. I mean some low starting notes + some high ending notes in each song.

The guides also say prairie is a tail-wagger. This one pumped once on 5-23 in the approx. Yahn I watched and on 5-24 I watched for 15 min. non-stop and he wagged his tail not once. He evidently hadn't read the literature.

Bird would sing for around 5 min. from each perch then move to another nearby perch + continue. Most singing perches were 10'-15' high with highest 20' and lowest about 5'. Bird went almost to ground once but did not sing from there. He seemed to set perimeter with perches.

Similar species and how eliminated: NONE - Song is diagnostic. The yellow below-black striped sides, facial pattern is also distinctive.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Bright overcast - good viewing. Closest I could approach was about 30' but mostly we watched from about 50' with 7x35 binoculars + with 25x scope. Bird would sit in one place and sing so viewing was easy. (in the open) I also took photos.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: NO Experience, but I recognized the song from the car as we were driving. Very easy I.D.References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson - Field Guide to BirdsRobbins - Birds of North AmericaHow long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 1 day

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