

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? American Pipit How many? 1

Location? Lake Ahquabi St. PK.

Type of Habitat? stream bed in bottomland forest

When? date(s): 1/1/99 time: 11:15 to 11:20 a.m.

Who? your name and address: Jim Sinclair, 810 N. R St. Indianola, IA.

Others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Medium sized song birds. Basically brown above and buff below. Tail was relatively long, colored black with white outer feathers. Bill was pinkish at base and black on the distal two thirds. Cheek, head and rump same brown as mantle. Buff from face and throat extended below cheek to form partial collar. The eye was dark with a buff eyeline and a faint buff eye ring. Breast and belly a rich buff with dark streaking on the breast extending to the flanks.

Behavior included continuous tail pumping and a deliberate walking style. Similar species: how eliminated: The bird was actively foraging along cut stream bank, walking on the ice while probing into leaf litter at ice edge.

The long bill eliminated any kind of sparrow and the white outer tail feathers eliminated water thrush species. Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Viewing conditions good - bird seen as close as 20 ft. with 10x by 42 glasses.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Plenty of experience with the American Pipit

References and persons consulted before writing description:

AGS Field Guide

How long before field notes made? 1 hour this form completed? 48 hours

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