

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Warbler (Dendroica discolor) How many? 1 male

Location? Second Growth clearing at the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest, Lee Co., IA

Type of habitat? Second growth of short bushes and grassy field

When? date(s): July 12, 1985 time: 7:00 am to 7:30 am

Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703

others with you: Bob Cecil, Keokuk

others before or after you: Beth and Mark Proescholdt, Steve Dinsmore, John Hoogerheide

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.

At a clearing on top of a hill in the Croton Unit of the Shimek State Forest near Argyle, IA Bob Cecil reported seeing and hearing a male Prairie Warbler. When I got there we had a little trouble locating the bird but the song was unmistakable when it began to sing. We viewed the bird from approx. 75 to 100 yards so that others could locate and see the bird. The song was the typical Prairie Warbler song of: zee-zee-zee-zee-zee-zee-zee-zee starting low and going up the scale with a buzzy quyality to it. The bird was seen from quite a distance but most of its body was a bright yellow color with the wings and tail being a darker olive color the head and back of the neck was a lighter shade of olive. Their were black streaking on the sides only . Their was a black streak through the eye and a black drooping line below the eye meeting the black eyeline to form a yellow patch directly below the eye. The bird had a bright yellow superciliary line above the eye. The legs and beak were black.

Similar species and how eliminated: No other bird with this coloration and song pattern.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Viewed in bright sunlight from over right shoulder looking North from approx. 75 to 100 yds. using 10X40 Leitz binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have lots of experience with this species in Virginia prior to 1978 and have seen four other Prairie Warblers in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 2 hours this form completed? 2 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240