

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Worm-eating Warbler How many? 1Location? Croton Unit, Shimek Forest, 2½ miles west of Argyle, Lee County, IowaType of habitat? Immature WoodlandWhen? date(s): Sept. 15, 1984 time: 9:00 A.M. to 9:01 A.M. AppxWho? your name and address: Robert I. Cecil, 327 S. 6th, Keokuk, Iowa 52632others with you: No.others before or after you: No.

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.

I did not realize this was a late date until a week or two after the sighting so I didn't make field notes, or even spend much time looking at the bird.

The bird was among a loose troupe of other Warblers, perhaps 10 feet off the ground. I noted the general brown color--it reminds me of the color of a House Wren--and then was able to see the black and buff striped crown. From this I was able to positively identify it as a Worm-eating Warbler. The bird was Warbler-sized, and had the same profile and posture as other Worm-eating Warblers I had seen recently.

I realize this isn't much of a description, but I have become very familiar with this species over the summer. Assuming one gets a good look at the crown(which I did) it is, in my opinion, as distinctive and unmistakable as any bird in Iowa.

Similar species and how eliminated: Conspicuous striped crown ruled out other Warblers. General shape and posture wrong for striped-crown sparrows.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? N.A.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Area generally shaded, sky overcast as I recall. Distance, perhaps 20 feet.
Binoculars: 8x Zeiss

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have found Worm-eating Warblers 7 times in this area since July 7. Next latest was 2 on Aug. 22

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? None made, but recorded sighting in my records.
this form completed? 2 weeks

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