

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Pine Warbler 2. Number: one
3. Location Brookside Park, Ames, Story County, Iowa
4. Date: 3 September 1984 5. Time Bird seen: around 10 AM?? to off & on for around 10 min;
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
Warbler bigger than Chestnut-sided, seemed a bit bigger than a near-by Bay-breasted; head olivish-brown with slight yellowish cast, definite yellow eye line; wings with prominent white wing bars; tail dark with white 'spot' or triangle under each side below; breast slightly yellowish with very faint streaks; belly white; back brown- I never got a good sustained look at the back but several glimpses of the back thru the foliage did not show any obvious markings; under tail coverts white.
Overall a somewhat chunky or 'fat' appearance in comparison with nearby warblers.
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: foraging
9. Habitat - general: low land forest
specific: foraging in mid level of trees
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Bay-breasted isn't yellowish below, usually with ^{low} streaks, has streaks on back.
Black poll has streaks on back, usually not yellowish below
Palm streaks on back, under tail coverts yellow, wags tail
Cape May has contrast between rump & back, usually has pale or yellow neck spot
11. Distance (how measured)? 25 to 150 feet 12. Optical equipment:
7 X 35 Binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
most of the time sun to my back while facing direction of bird.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Saw a much more strongly marked one this spring that sang. Have seen several times.
15. Other observers:
Jack Holloway
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
I'd followed it into the trees before I realized somebody else was watching too. He'd already decided what it was before I talked to him.
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Field Guide to the Birds Peterson
Birds of North America Golden Press.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? some notes same day, rest two days later
- Signature Carl M. [unclear] Address: 1120 Marston
- Date: 5 Sept 1984 City, State: Ames, Iowa