

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What Species? Cape May Warbler

How many? 1 imm.

Location? Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest

Type of Habitat? Middle maturity woodland bordered by brushy edge. Larger cedars around.

When? date(s)? Aug. 12, 1986

time: 7:45 AM to

Who? your name and address: Robert Cecil, 327 S. 6th, Keokuk, Iowa

others 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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior. I initially noted a small, grayish warbler that was heavily streaked. I identified as warbler sp. due to thin bill, small size, posture. The bird has a pale yellowish rump, dark eye streak, heavily streaked undersides. As I didn't immediately know what it was, I got out the Peterson's I was carrying, and determined it was a Cape May. Following the reference to Petersons, I look for and found a lightish patch behind a darker cheek, like an ear patch. The bird's back and tail was unmarked from what I saw. Except for the streaking, the undersides were buffy.

Similar species and how eliminated: Fall female Yellow-rumped looks similar, but has much more yellow rump, less streaking on undersides. And although this is early for Cape May, it would be very early for Yellow-rump.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? N.A.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Distance, about 30 ft. Optics: 10x40 Zeiss dialyt

Previous experience with this and similar species: My first Cape May. Have seen many Yellow-rumps.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds

How long before field notes made?

1 hour

How long before this form completed?

1 week