DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What Species? Prairie Warbler
How many? 1
Location? MacBride Nature Recreation Area, Johnson Co. (June 4,5); Lake MacBride State Park, Johnson Co. (June 29)
Type of Habitat? Brushy, overgrown hillside
When? June 4, 1994, 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM; June 5, 1994, 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM; June 29, 1994, 8:30 PM - 8:45 PM
Who? Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty, IA 52317
Others with you: On June 4, Rick Hollis; on June 5, Jeff Dankert and David Dankert.
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.

Typical warbler size and shape; bill slender and black; face, throat, breast and belly bright yellow; two black facial stripes, one through the eye and one below the eye; black streaks on sides; crown and back olive green (no chestnut streaks discernible); wings and tail greenish gray. The bird was singing an ascending series of buzzy "zee" notes fairly regulary.

On June 4 the bird was heard singing and seen flying, but no field marks were observed. On June 5 the bird was heard singing and observed well while perched. On both days the bird perched in small trees and shrubs around the hillside and sang.

On June 29 a bird, possibly the same one, was heard singing sporadically and seen flying on a brushy hillside in Lake MacBride State Park, approximately two miles north of the original location.

Similar species; how eliminated: No other bird has a similar song or the combination of yellow underparts, black streaks on the sides and black facial marks.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? No

Viewing conditions: On June 5, overcast; approximately 50 yards; viewed with 8x42 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have heard and observed Prairie Warblers several times previously at Shimek State Forest in Lee Co. I am familiar with the songs and appearances of all other warblers that regularly occur in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing desciption: None

How long before field notes made? 30 minutes How long before this form completed? 30 minutes