

DOCUMENTATION FORM
Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species: Palm Warbler

Location: My yard in northern Warren County, Iowa

Habitat: Open riparian edge

Date: 17 August 1991

Time: 11:20 to 11:25

Name and Address: Ann Johnson, 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, Iowa 50211

Other observers: None

Description of bird: This was a largish warbler with a somewhat heavy bill. White tail spots identified it as a "Dendroica" species. The bird was primarily grayish-brown with a buffy supercilium, pale streaking on a buffy breast and belly, and thin streaks (as if drawn by a sharp pencil) on the gray-brown back. There were two rather indistinct wing bars. The bird had a yellow rump and the yellow undertail coverts contrasted sharply with the dark tail and buffy underparts. The bird was foraging in a row of pine trees at about ten feet off the ground. It pumped its tail as it walked along the branches.

Similar species and how eliminated: Other yellow rumped warblers were eliminated by the bright yellow undertail coverts contrasting with the buffy breast and belly.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

Viewing conditions (lighting, distance, optics): The sun was to my left but not shining directly on the bird. Distance was about twenty feet and observation was through 7x26 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Many years with most species of warblers.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds

How long before field notes made? Notes made about an hour after observation
How long before this form completed? Next evening