

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Worm-eating Warbler 2. Number 1
3. Location Wildcat Den State Park
4. Date: 5-10-79 5. Time Bird Seen: 10:45 to 11:30 approx

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):

We heard typical insect-like buzzing note in deep rocky wooded ravine area of park. The bird continued to sing and move around on hillside. I finally got one good look at it. Overall dull gray to olive bird with white stripe over head, wide but sharply magnified eye-stripe. Rather long thin profile and long flat head-shape.

7. Description of voice, if heard: Insect like buzz

8. Description of behavior: secretive on hillside

9. Habitat - general: Deep wooded ravine

specific: Main ravine leading to "Den" at Wildcat
Den State Park

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

Other warblers

11. Distance (how measured)?

30 yards (guess)

12. Optical equipment:

8x40 Leitz Thoroid

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Partly sunny - rather uniform gray light in deep woods

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

Seen + heard once at same location, Seen + heard several times in the East

15. Other observers:

T.K. Shires

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none

Peter Petersen

*Seen in same area
two days later.
Another seen at
Mickory Hill on 5-13*

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 21 hours

Signature: Thomas H. Kurt Address: 211 Richards St.

Date: 5-11-79 City, State: Lava City Iowa