

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Warbler How many? 1Location? Croton Unit - Shimek State Forest - (Lee Co.)Type of habitat? Small brush in clearing with new pines planted with mature trees surrounding itWhen? date(s): July 12, 1985 time: 8:10 a.m. 8:13 a.m.
8:40 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: Bob Cecil, Francis Moore, Steve Dinsmore

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

We first heard it singing in the mature trees behind us as we stood at the edge of the clearing. It has a very distinctive song - an ascending "zee" that kind of sounds tinny. It sounded like the middle portion of a N. Parula song to me. Very shortly it came out 20 feet away from me and then flew to a small bush 30 yards away. It had a yellowish throat and undersides, black streaks on its yellowish sides, and was greenish in color on its back and topsides. It was a tail wagger and had a black eyeline and black circle around the eye. It showed white tail spots when it flew on the underside of the tail.

Later we found it along the edge of the mature trees and in some sumac bushes about 25 yards away. We only saw one bird at a time but wondered if possibly two birds were present and one was a duller-looking female. The bird appeared duller but also was in shadows at times.

Similar species and how eliminated: A Kentucky warbler lacks the black streaks on the yellowish sides. A Cape May warbler has chestnut cheeks, a yellow rump, a patch of yellow behind ear, and should be far north of Iowa in summer.
Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Cloudy and a little foggy. Distances estimated. 7X35 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

First time for seeing a Prairie Warbler. Have seen some Kentucky and Cape May warblers.
References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds, Robbins' Birds of North America, Natl. Geog. Birds of N. America.
How long before field notes made? Right away this form completed? July 18, 1985

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