

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Bay-breasted Warbler How many? 1Location? Roberts Riverside Park, Van Buren County, IAType of habitat? Oak/sycamores on riverbankWhen? date(s): 18 Apr 82 time: ca 1600 to 1601 (about 10 seconds)Who? your name and address: James P. Sandrock, 1634 Morningside Drive, Iowa City, IAothers with you: N/Aothers before or after you: N/A

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.

The bird was "warbler-size" and shape. It was working its way along a bare branch of oak (?) tree. The bird was about 20' above me and approximately 30' from my position. Without binoculars I observed a bird with a dark head; the darkness ran across the neck and down the sides of the otherwise light breast. With binoculars the dark head and breast were a deep mahogany ("chestnut") color; the breast was a light, buffy color; the overall color of body was brown. The bird flew away before I could verify the light-colored neck patch and wing bars. There was no doubt in my mind, however, that the bird was, indeed, a Bay-breasted Warbler.

Similar species and how eliminated: No other bird has this combination of size, coloration, etc.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? N/A

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Sunny; 30' (est); 7 x 35 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen many of this species.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None.

How long before field notes made? - this form completed? 9 June 1982

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