

DOCUMENTATION FORM
Extraordinary Bird Sightings
In Iowa

Species? Prairie Warbler No. 1

Location Van Buren Co., 2 mi. E Bonaparte. T68N R8W Sec 10, SE 1/4

Habitat Extensive (~80 acre?) old pasture overgrown with scattered red cedars.

Date(s) June 13, 1983 Time: ~9:30 to 9:45

Name and Address: Bob Howe, Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319.

Other Observers: none

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 behavior and voice.

First heard song, a rather continuous buzz, distinct from blue-winged warblers which were common in the vicinity. Bird first appeared low in ~10 ft. red cedar. Black streaks through yellow breast and head, along with generally yellow/olive color gave positive identification. I watched the bird for approximately 15 minutes from close range, trying (unsuccessfully) to find evidence of nesting. Amber flecks on shoulder were conspicuous.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Black streaks on breast and through head, along with song, eliminated yellow warbler. Absence of conspicuous wingbar eliminated Cape May and Blackburnian; light (olive) colored back eliminated magnolia, yellow throated + others.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain:

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

Clear, calm day. - Observed through 7x binoculars (Bushnell Custom)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: This was my first prairie warbler, leaving only Bachman's and Swainson's Warblers of the eastern U.S. warblers that I have not seen. From the moment that I saw the bird there was no question of its identity.

References and persons consulted before writing description:
I looked at Peterson (1980) to

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed?
1 1/2 months

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