

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What Species? Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) how many? 1 adult female

Location? Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest, 2½ miles west of Argyle, Lee County, Iowa

Type of Habitat? Heavily overgrown pasture

When? date(s)? Aug. 15, 1986 time: 8:10 AM to 8:15 AM

Who? your name and address: Robert Cecil, 327 S. 6th, Keokuk, Iowa 52632

others with you: John Cecil (my son)

others before or after you: Not yet

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Note: this bird was seen within 100 feet of where the immature Prairie Warbler was seen Aug. 12, 1986.

I observed a wood warbler-sized bird about 6 feet off the ground in a small tree. The bird had a bright yellow breast and undersides, extending from throat to tail. Along the sides only were blackish streaks, but not so pronounced as on a male bird--overall, this bird looked like a faded male Prairie Warbler. Both the black superciliar and malar streaks were evident, with yellow in between--again quite similar to ~~the~~ a male, but the black was not as black (as on a male) and the streaks were not as bold, but nevertheless conspicuous.

The back of the bird was uniformly green-brown from crown to tail. I had a good view of the back but observed no chestnut streaking.

The bird pumped its tail continuously as I watched it..

Similar species and how eliminated:

In view of the features I observed, I considered this bird pretty much in the unmistakable category.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? No.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Distance, about 30 feet (guess). Binocs: 10x40 Zeiss

Previous experience with this and similar species:

Have seen on several occasions in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None

How long before field notes made?

Not made

How long before this form completed?

1½ hour