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DOCUMENTATION OF UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTING

SPECIES: Nashville Warbler

LOCATION: Hancher Auditorium Parking Lot, University of Iowa Campus, Iowa City (Johnson County).

DATE & TIME: 19 December, 1993 (9:15-30 AM).

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240.

OTHERS: With me were Jim Scheib and John McLure. Later were Tom Kent and Dick Tetrault.

BACKGROUND: Iowa City CBC. We were searching the evergreens around the Hancher Auditorium Parking Lot where two Pine Warblers had been found the previous year, when a small bird flew into the top branches of a Norway Pine in front of us. First impression was a kinglet, but as soon as I could get my binoculars on it, it was much too yellow. We watched the bird in this tree and others nearby gleaning the evergreen needles. Its motions were very quick.

DESCRIPTION: This small warbler size bird had entirely lemon yellow underparts from throat to vent, except for an area between the legs which was whitish. The side of the face, crown, and nape were all a gray color. The dark eye was surrounded by a faint white eyering (not as bright as usual for this species). The back was a brownish-green color, as were the wings. There were no wingbars. The bill was thin, pointed, and appeared to be gray. The legs were dark. No vocalization was heard.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The three warblers with which this species might be confused are Mourning, Connecticut, and MacGillivray's. All three have much more extensive gray on the head and upper breast, including the throat. All three also have light colored legs. No one disagreed with the identification.

VIEWING CONDITIONS: Overcast sky. Looking east to northeast at 20-30 feet.

OPTICS: Binoculars were 8.5 X 44 Swift Audubon.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: Common migrant seen numerous times.

REFERENCES & FIELD NOTES: National Geographic Guide was referred to while watching the bird. Field notes were made on the spot, and this form was typed the following day.