

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Yellow-throated warbler 2. Number 1
3. Location Roberts Riverside Park - one mile north of Keosauqua, Van Buren County, Iowa on Des Moines River. Bird seen at extreme north end of park.
4. Date: 11 April 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon (est)
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
No other birds in view to compare size; typical warbler size (ca 4-5") and slender warbler shape. Gray-blue back with two white wing bars; bright yellow throat abruptly turning to white breast; black spots running down sides of breast directly in front of wing; large white eye brow with black cheek-patch behind which was smaller white patch; bill rather long, slim, and pointed; tail rather long with slight "V" at tip. I did not observe color of bill and legs other than to note that they appeared dark.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Clear, ringing song: whistle-like "high-low high-low high-low high-low-low-low High" or swee swee swee swee swee-swee sweet
8. Description of behavior: constant flitting about branches; at rest very seldom
9. Habitat - general: High up in sycamore tree on river bank
specific: Bird varied altitude from 30-75' in sycamore tree; flew to small sapling about 25' in front of me for short time.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
not yellow-rumped warbler because of white throat and black breast-ring
11. Distance (how measured)? 50 yds. and up to tree (est.) 12. Optical equipment: Bushnell binoculars, 7 x 35
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Bright, clear day; sun high in sky about 45 degrees left of tree; I kept sun behind me.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
I had seen and heard this species last spring (1980)
15. Other observers: Johanna K. Sandrock
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes. She made individual identification
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
After identifying species I checked in Golden Book Field Guide and Peterson's latest field guide. This confirmed my identification. I do not think it influenced this description.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
11 days.
- Signature: James P. Sandrock Address: 1634 Morningside Drive
- Date: 27 April 1981 City, State: Iowa City, Iowa 52240