

What species? Prairie Warbler (Dendroica discolor) How many? 1 male

Location? Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest, Lee County, Iowa

Type of habitat? Woodland edge of large overgrown pasture

When? date(s): Aug. 27, 1985 time: 8:15 AM to 8:30 AM

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

others with you: No

others before or after you: No

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.

*This would not sound if so contradictory if you could see the area*

NOTE: This bird was seen perhaps 300 yards from where on Aug. 20 I last saw the well-documented Prairie Warbler that summered in this area. For several reasons, however, I think this may have been another bird. This most recent bird was in a large open area where I have never seen or heard Prairies before, and this opening is distinct and separate from the opening where the other bird summered (although they are connected by a narrow ~~opening~~ strip.) This bird was amid and moving with a large number (10 species!) of other warblers, which suggests at least to me that it may have been part of a migrating group. This bird was also very brilliantly ~~colored~~ colored and more significantly, the chestnut streaking on the back was noticable even in marginal light. The earlier bird was not so bright, and the Chestnut back streaking was impossible to see except in perfect light, and then appeared to me to consist of only two short chestnut streaks.

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The Prairie Warbler this morning showed a bright yellow, unstreaked breast and throat, with sharply defined black streaking along the sides only. On the head, the black eye and malar streaks were conspicuous against the bright yellow cheek of the bird. These streaks appeared to connect behind the eye, forming a small yellow triangle beneath the eye. Above the black eye streak but beneath the greenish gray cap was a yellow superciliary stripe, also bright. Also greenish gray was the bird's back, except for the chestnut streaking on the back. There appeared to be about four of these streaks. These stripes could not be called conspicuous, but they were easier to see than on any other Prairie I've ever seen. No sounds or other significant features were observed, except tail bobbing.

Similar species and how eliminated: Face pattern could I suppose be confused with imm. Black-burnian, but had two with flock for comparison. Noted more orangy-yellow coloration, more white in wings.

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

If yes, explain:

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

Viewing conditions, fair to excellent--had intermittent fog coming through, occassionally dingy, ~~xxx~~ usually sun-lit and bright. Sun to back. Distance, perhaps 60'.

Optics: 10 x 40 Zeiss Dialyt

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Found in Iowa ~~xxx~~ this year and last.

Saw this year's on 14 different occasions.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None (except Peterson's to find out how to spell "superciliary".)

How long before field notes made? Not made this form completed? 1 hour

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