

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What Species? Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) How many? 1 <sup>imm</sup> female or imm. male.

Location? Croton Unit, Shimek Forest, 2½ miles W. of Argyle, Lee Co. Iowa

Type of Habitat? Cedars overlooking heavily overgrown pasture with multi-flora rose,  
large saplings (small trees), conifer saplings planted by Conservation Comm.

When? date(s)? Aug. 12, 1986 time: 7:45 AM to 7:50 AM

Who? your name and address: Robert Cecil, 327 Sth 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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior. I was birding Shimek looking for early migrant Warblers when I spotted a Warbler in one of several large Cedars forming a wind break or something along a fence row. My first view was an excellent profile view, and I was able to observe its bright yellow breast with conspicuous streaking along the sides only. The undersides pattern, <sup>color</sup> and placement of the streaking was identical to the adult male Prairie Warbler that was seen near this location in June. Based on size, the breast, and posture, I knew the bird was a Prairie, but I looked for other field marks. Inconspicuous eye and malar streaks were also present. I should emphasize inconspicuous. They served more to set off the bird's dark cheek--the malar was a sharp distinction between the brownish of the cheek and the yellow of the throat.

I also watched for, and observed the pumping or bobbing of the tail. This was done continuously by the bird as it foraged.

At no time did I have an opportunity to watch for chestnut streaking on the back.

No conspicuous wing bars were noted. From what I saw of the bird's back, it appeared uniformly brown or perhaps greenish brown from top of head to base of the tail.

Bird also utilized deciduous saplings, remained about 15-20 from ground.  
Similar species and how eliminated: Magnolia has yellow rump. Imm. Blackburnian has much more white in wings, more defined head pattern, more orangy-yellow about head.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? N.A.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Ave. distance 40 ft. (guess). Lighting fair to excellent--sun at back for part of the time. Optics: Zeiss 10x40 binocs.

Previous experience with this and similar species: Have seen several adult male Prairie Warblers. Have not previously seen Imm. or Female.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Iowa Birds.

How long before field notes made? Not made

How long before this form completed? 1 hour.