

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? PRAIRIE WARBLER - male How many? ONELocation? Lansing Wildlife Area, one mile west and three miles north of Lansing, Iowa, Allamakee County.Type of habitat? Grassy hillside with scattered bushes and small trees. Bordering on edge of deciduous woodland.When? date(s): June, 19, 1982 time: 8:05 to 9:00AMWho? your name and address: Carl J. Bendorf 825 7th Ave. Iowa City, IA. 52240others with you: Tom Kent and Tom Staudt of Iowa Cityothers before or after you: Same species seen here on 23 May by Bob Myers and about 29 May by Francis Moore, both of Waterloo.

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.

Average warbler size and shape. Bill all black and long and thin. Top of head olive. Superciliary was bright yellow. Indistinct black line through the eye and extending on behind the eye. Crescent shaped black stripe extending from the auricular area both inferiorly and anteriorly. Rest of the face was yellow.

Bright yellow breast and belly shading to white undertail coverts. Heavy black streaks on sides of breast and abdomen. On either side of the base of the neck (sides of the throat) was a larger somewhat horizontal black streak or patch.

Olive green upper back which shaded to gray-olive on the rump and wings. Wings showed a faint white "epaulet" patch. Several faint chestnut streaks on the upper back which were visible only at close range.

Some tail feathers were white underneath. Some white flash in tail from above as the bird flew.

Bird observed perching in 10'-20' trees, often near the top. Singing frequently with some feeding behavior. Very active, not shy at all.

Song was quite loud and clear. A series of perhaps 8 to 10 single short notes which both ascended in pitch and increased somewhat in tempo as the song progressed. The notes started out as clear whistles very much like that of a field sparrow, but developed a buzzy nature as the song progressed.

Bird was photographed by Kent, and song recorded by Bendorf. Shortly after observation, recording was compared to version on Peterson record and found to be virtually identical, but this bird was somewhat faster overall in song. Similar species and how eliminated: Peterson's Field Guide (2nd edition) describes the Prairie as "the only common Warbler with yellow underparts striped with black in which the stripings are confined to the sides." He also states that no other warbler has the chestnut streakings on the upper back.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Clear sky, bright sun. As bird moved around we had excellent views from many angles at distances estimated from 20 to 200 feet. Bendorf: 7X35 binos, Kent: 8X40 binos and Celestron 750mm camera lens, Staudt: 7X50 binos.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Staudt: life bird, Bendorf: seen once in Florida, Kent: once in Iowa, several References and persons consulted before writing description: times elsewhere.

This is a joint documentation, notes made before any reference consulted. How long before field notes made? 30 min. this form completed? 12 hours.

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