

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What Species? Eastern Meadowlark How many? ONE-1

Location? 2 mi. E. Muscatine along Hwy 22

Type of Habitat? grassy roadside

When? date(s)? Dec. 17, 1988 time: 8:01 to 8:02 AM

Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen 235 McClellan B

others with you: Walter Zuurdeeg Chris Reed

others before or after you: none to our knowledge

Dover
FA
5 x 80

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.

Chubby, 8" long icterids, back dark rich brown with light feather edging, head striped brown & white, wings tan with dark brown bars, tail tan with brown bars in center, white outer feathers, throat & breast yellow with black V edged with tan. IP by call, the typical summer song. Four note slurred whistle heard clearly by all three of us. Bird in a sheltered location & in the sun. Only one bird called other considered sp.

Similar species and how eliminated: Western has 6-note call, much less musical

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? no

If yes, explain: -

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: 10X40 + 7X50 + 7X35 binoculars

Previous experience with this and similar species: Have seen & heard thousands

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? none 10 min

How long before this form completed? 10 hrs.