

Spring 1996 Field Report

Name	first seen	last seen	Location	Oberservers
Carolina Wren	3/1/95			G.B.
Tennessee Warbler	5/12/96	5/29/96	Lamb's Grove	G.B.
Magnolia Warbler	5/12/96			G.B.
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5/9/96			G.B.
Blackburnian Warbler	5/9/96	6/01/96	Lamb's Grove	G.B.
Palm Warbler	5/12/96		Pella	G.B.
Northern Waterthrush	5/5/96			G.B.
Wilson's Warbler	5/9/96			G.B.

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General Observations, Spring 1996

The spring started dry but cool, then wet and cool at the time the warblers normally come through. This appears to that delayed the migration through Iowa. The first and last sitings were later than usual.

The Carolina Wren again susccessfully overwintered in Lamb's Grove.

I received reports of 20 Black-billed Magpies at the Whitebreast unit of Stephens forrest on May 19. They accurately described the bird in size and markings i.e. Large, bold black and white pattern. Larger than a dove and smaller than a crow. Were in a large meadow area of the unit. *Said, definitely not a Bobalink - much larger.*

Gordon Brand

Saw many Palm Warblers in a pasture & 30 together with Yellow-rumped Warblers. Never saw this many together before. Peak warbler migration - end of 3rd week in May.

id#: 200 Name: Blackburnian Warbler
first seen: 5/9/96 Number: 2
last seen: 6/02/96 Number: 1
Date most seen: Number:
report?: y
doc?: y
Comments:

Observers: G.B.
Location: Lamb's Grove
Location: Lamb's Grove
Location:

Documentation Form

Species name: Blackburnian Warbler Date(s) observed: 6/01/96
Observers: G.B. Time of day: 8:30 AM
Weather conditions: Overcast, temp 60 F

lighting conditions: Diffuse light
Equipment used: 8x32 binoculars
Sources consulted:

Visual description: Bright orange breast & throat. The orange continuing onto the cheek among the black markings. Striking black & white wings. Belly white. Singing male.

Habitat: High in white oak tree in a very wooded residential area.

Vocalizations: High pitched warbler tones with last several notes high & slurred

Behavior: Moving around high in the tree tops. Singing.

Similar Species and how eliminated: The Blackburnian is so distinctive. No doubt about it. Only filling out the documentation because of it being still around at this late date.

Date of report: 6/2/96

Blackburnian male still singing 6/02/96 at incorrect same location, "wonder if establishing territory outside normal range". mailing this report 6/02/96. so don't know if this will be the last sighting or whether the bird will attempt to nest. Saw a pair in the location 5/27/96 - ♂ & ♀. Therefore ♀ may still be around but have not seen her 6/1 or 2.

Also noteworthy is the presence of an albino robin near Grays Lake in Des Moines. I have seen the bird repeatedly the last 3 weeks in the same area.

Gordon J. Brand