

52-94-71

ACCEPTED

## DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING

**Species:** Prairie Warbler**Date(s):** May 18, 1994**Time seen:** 1:00-1:30 p.m.**Locality:** 6 miles south of Idalia, Yuma County**Latilong:** 14 **Atlas Block # & Name:** 39102F3 - Idalia **Optical equipment** Binoculars**Number of birds seen:** 1 **Sex:** M **Plumage:** Alternate — brilliant!**Light conditions:** Bright sun, mid-day**Distance from bird, how measured:** 10-40 feet est.**Weather at time of observation:** Clear, warm, windy**Prior weather & number of days since change:** Wind for 3 days, from S and SW.**Habitat:** Shelter belt with short grass prairie or wheat fields for 3-5 miles in all directions (Republican R. 3 miles south). Shelter belt consisted of one line of pines, one line of junipers, a 2nd line of junipers with 2 dead mulberries and a locust.**Behavior of bird:** Singing 3-8 times/minute, feeding as well.**Detailed description of bird:** First noticed because Urling heard it from the road. See description of song below. It had a bright yellow head, throat, breast, belly and under tail coverts.**Head:** three black lines: one through eye, another below the eye, and a third parallel to it below that line. The first two lines did not meet behind the eye. Cap and nape greenish olive.**Upper mandible** had a lump on the end — see sketch.**Black streaks** on sides but not in center of breast & belly. Two white wing bars.**Tail** gray, white underneath, probably with gray and white above (not seen clearly).**Field marks not seen:** We thought that the under tail coverts were yellow; apparently they are supposed to be white. Eye lines did not meet behind eye. Did not wag its tail.**Bird's calls or song:** We found it by song—it did not move around a lot, but it sure sang a lot—3-8 times per minute all the time we were there. Song a series of rising "Zee's"—8 to 10 in one sequence. Distinctive, diagnostic, attention-getting.**Similar species:** Blackburnian: Orange face, black face patch, lacks yellow underparts.Magnolia: gray crown, black face, white wing patch, not wing bars.Cape May: reddish face patch, dark cap, stripes all across breast, yellow rump.Black-throated Green: ear patch, not black eye lines; lacks yellow underparts.Townsend's: has eye patch, not eye lines, and black throat, lacks yellow underparts.Grace's & Yellow-throated: lack yellow face and yellow belly, have eye patches, not stripes.Palm: rusty cap, not greenish, lacks facial stripes, has subdued side streaking, wing bars not as prominent.**Prior experience:** Urling recognized the song as one she had heard in Florida, though she hadn't succeeded in associating song with species. We have both seen them off and on (Hugh once in Colorado, both of us in Florida).**Description from notes** made at the time of observation.**Other observers:** Chris Wood.

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