



IOS IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

IORC Documentation Submission

1 message

IORC Web Submission <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Sun, May 12, 2019 at 12:18 PM

Reply-To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

1) This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):	Unusual species
If other, please describe:	
2) Species:	Swainson's Warbler
3) Number of birds:	1
4) Age/Sex/Plumage:	Unknown
5) Date:	2019-05-10
6) Location (include county):	Sexton Creek Wetlands, Alexander County
7) Observers:	Allen Gathman
8) Your name:	Allen Gathman
Street Address	██████████
Street Address Line 2	
City	██████████
State / Province / Region	██
Postal / Zip Code	██████
Country	██████████
10) Your e-mail address:	██████████████████
11) Others agreeing with the identification:	NA
12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification:	NA
13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet) include only details actually seen in the field :	It was a large warbler size and shape, with a solid dark chestnut-brown back and cap, short tail, light supercilium and dark eyeline. The beak was straight, coming to a point, and noticeably larger than that of a typical warbler. Belly was off-white, with a wash of pale yellow on the breast. Flanks and undertail off-white same as belly.
14) Description of behavior:	Flew up from the ground and perched about 4 feet above ground on a horizontal twig of a small tree, then flew down into underbrush.
15) Description of vocalizations:	None heard. No response when I played recorded Swainson's Warbler song after seeing it.
16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):	I was in flooded woodland with mixed hardwoods and some cypress, kayaking on the flooded trail from the parking area on Highway 3 to the Blue Hole (see map here: https://www.flickr.com/photos/agathman/24418510350). The bird was in a slightly higher area, maybe 5-10 feet from the

	water's edge. The area is normally woodland with some adjacent wetlands, but is now mostly under water due to high river level.
17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power):	Vanguard Endeavor ED 10x42 binoculars
18) Distance/how measured?	About 20 feet, estimated by sight.
19) Time of observation:	02:00 pm
20) Total time of observation:	20 seconds
21) Weather conditions:	Mostly cloudy, beginning to break up a little. Wind NE 5-10 mph, but not noticeable in the heavy cover where I was during this observation. Light was diffuse but good, with the sun to my front left side, moderated by foliage and cloud cover.
22) Previous experience with this species and similar species:	I've only seen Swainson's Warbler once before, on May 1, 2016 at Greer Crossing in Oregon County, MO (https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S29353180). At that time I had extensive looks and got photos, also hearing the song. As for similar species, the ones I consider below are Red-eyed Vireo and Carolina Wren; I have observed these frequently in MO and IL over the past 8 years.
23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids:	The longer, sharply pointed bill this bird had eliminates vireos, which would have shorter, blunter bills. In addition, the pale yellow breast and brown, rather than gray-green, back eliminates Red-eyed Vireo specifically. Carolina Wren would have a downcurved bill rather than a straight one, and has redder back coloration, buffy sides, and barring on the wings and tail, none of which were present in this bird.
24) Were photos obtained?	No
25) If so, by whom?	NA
26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description?:	I checked Sibley after observing the bird to confirm that the field marks I had seen were consistent with SWWA and eliminated other species.
27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded?	About 2 hours, as soon as I got home and added a description to the ebird record.
28) How long after the observation was this form completed?	Two days.
29) Additional remarks (URLs can be entered here):	Ebird checklist for this observation: https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S56093050 Unfortunately, as I was in the kayak, I didn't have my (non-waterproof) camera handy.