

Western Tanager
22 Apr 1986
Decorah, Winneshiek Co., IA
*Harriet Hovde
IBL 56:91; 57:78

Record Number: 86-02
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Harriet/Oivind Hovde

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 56:91
Records Committee: IBL 57:78

VOTE: 7-III

III, This single documentation gives minimal description (no explanation of why the "knew immediately it had to be a tanager because of size and shape," but it is hard to imagine what else the bird could have been. The description is indeed brief, but appears to be diagnostic.

III, Although the observer has no experience with this species, the description and good view are convincing.

III, Short and somewhat sketchy documentation but description of color of bird appears to be adequate to describe this species and eliminate any others. A description of behavior and of all parts of bird would have been better. Three other people observed this bird; they should have sent a documentation as well to help corroborate this record. Can anyone vouch for the reliability of this observer.

III, Even though the documentation was somewhat incomplete I believe the I.D. is correct because of the obvious field marks shown by the male of this species.

III, Really a poor overall documentation--"a tanager because of the size and shape"!!? Tough bird to misidentify though.

III, Brief description, but says field notes taken at the time.

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation
by the Records Committee
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: *Western Tanager*
DATE SEEN: *22 and 24 April 1986*
SITE OF OBSERVATION: *Decorah, Iowa*
OBSERVERS: *Harriet Houde*
DATE OF REVIEW: *9-1-86*
METHOD OF REVIEW: *Vote via mail*
CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: *III*
COMMENTS: *Vote: > III*

The Records Committee was in agreement that while the documentation might have contained more detailed information it was convincing for this bird which has such obvious field marks.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

What species? Western Tanager (male) How many? 1

Location? 603 North St. Decorah Winneshiek County

Type of habitat? Open yard with ^(deciduous + conifer) trees and shrubs near feeding station

When? date(s): April 22 + 24 time: 4:30 P.M. - 10 A.M. to _____

Who? your name and address: Harriet + Osind Horde 603 North St. Decorah

others with you: _____

others before or after you: Orene Blocken, Ardith Koenig, Dorothy Peterson

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.

We knew immediately it had to be tanager because of the size and shape. The very distinctive coloring made it easy to identify with the red head, yellow body with black back, wings and tail and definite wing bars.

Similar species and how eliminated: Scarlet Tanager - Eliminated because of color and wing bars.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Sunny - Ten feet from a picture window in a small dogwood tree. No optical equipment needed

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Scarlet Tanager

References and persons consulted before writing description: Tony Peterson Field Guide
Tex Jordahl, Biology Luther College

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 10 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240