

Mrs. Phil Thornton
326 Otsego Street
STORM LAKE, IOWA 50588

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Field notes for Iowa Bird Life

We first observed this bird early afternoon April 30, 1984 in the bird bath. There had been a very strong west wind the night before, with 6 in. of heavy wet snow. That day it was in the 40's and clear.

The head, down its breast (soil of in a V), down the back (except the brownish greenish nape) and under the tail was bright orange^{not rosy} red. The wings and tail were greenish brown. The abdomen was yellow and the large bill was whitish yellow. My first thought was a tanager and looking through all the books available I came across the picture (page 261, 1980 edition Peterson's Field guide to the Birds) of an immature summer tanager changing to adult. Our bird looked exactly like that picture.

It enjoyed the suet coming to it many times a day for 4 days. It spent much time in trees near the house and at the suet.

This bird was identified also as an immature summer tanager by Ed & Virginia Crocker and Ruth & Verne Campbell all of Storm Lake.

Submitted by Mrs. Phil Thornton
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