

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra) How many? 1 maleLocation? South part of Sweet Marsh, Bremer Co. near old Railroad bed.Type of habitat? along side entrance road at edge in Oak-Hickory-areaWhen? date(s): May 13, 1983 time: 7:00 am to 7:10 am.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Bob Myersothers before or after you: None

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 had just arrived at the South entrance to Sweet Marsh and were walking along the gravel road when Bob spotted a red bird in front of us that "looked different". As we got a better look at it we noticed it was a tanager and dismissed Hepatic because the bird had a light colored bill. The overall red plumage (except for an area below the belly and extending to the undertail coverts which was a yellowish-green color,) with red wings and tail ruled out Scarlet Tanager. We never heard the bird sing while watching it. It moved slowly along the gravel road along the edge of a stand of Oak. The bird was probably a second year male that had not quite made the color transition from immature to adult plumage.

Similar species and how eliminated: male (red) Scarlet Tanager has black wings and tail; Hepatic Tanager has a dark bill and dark cheek patch, this bird had neither.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Bright overcast from approx. 50 feet with 7x35 mm Bausch + Lomb Roof prism binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen Summer Tanagers in Southern Iowa and have seen lots of Scarlet Tanagers.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? When seen this form completed? 12 Hrs.

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