

Female Summer Tanager
south edge of Mason City

May 4 & 5, 1989

Evelyn Zack of Mason City reported an unusual bird eating blueberries (thrown out from her freezer) on her lawn. She called Jan Walter and also me. I noted the following points. The bird was smaller and slimmer than a robin. The wings and back were a nearly uniform brownish olive color. Underparts were a paler, more yellowish color. The bird did not appear greenish at all. The bill was large and much stouter than the bill of an Oriole. It was pale colored.

I observed the bird from 10:00 AM to Noon. The light was good and the bird was approximately 50-75 feet away.

I consulted Natul Geographic, Audubon Soc. Master Guide to Birding & Kenn Kaufman's Notes on Female Tanagers in American Birds Vol. 42 No. 1 (Spring of 1988) before becoming convinced the bird was a female Summer Tanager.

Steve, I need
to fill out an
official documentation
form for this bird?
Let me know if you'd
like one. CRN

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