

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Summer Tanager (female) How many? 1

Location? 934-13th S.E., Mason City, Ia.

Type of Habitat? Urban yard with large Green Ash trees

When? date(s): 23 May, 1990 time: about 1:50 to about 1:51

Who? your name and address: Jan L. Walter, 934-13th S.E., Mason City, Ia 50401

Others with you: None

Others 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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

As I was watching out the window, a bird flew in and landed on a leafless branch with nothing to block my view of it. It seemed a little larger than the Swainson's Thrushes I had been watching. It had a straw colored, elongated, rather thick, blunt-tipped bill. The under parts were reddish-yellow, with redder blotches on the breast and sides. As the bird was facing me almost directly, I couldn't see the wings and upper parts well, but they appeared darker reddish, but not black. When it flew, I could see the tail was reddish. About half an hour later, it returned and landed briefly on a stake, just long enough for me to confirm what I had seen earlier and notice the absence of wing bars. It was silent.

Similar species; how eliminated: The reddish, not greenish yellow color of the underparts eliminated female Scarlet Tanager. The thicker bill, not pointed at the tip, eliminated female Northern Oriole.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No one else saw it.
If yes, explain:

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

In the shade on a sunny day
First time - about 45' (guess) Second time - 30' (previously measured)
8x40 binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen female Summer Tanagers in Florida and a female Summer Tanager in Mason City on 4 May, 1989. Have seen a number of female Scarlet Tanagers and Northern Orioles

References and persons consulted before writing description: Documentation type write-up of my notes on the 1989 female Summer Tanager; Birds of North America, Golden Press; Birds of North America, National Geographic Society.

How long before field notes made? right away this form completed? Next day
after first sighting

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).