

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Summer Tanager (Probably a 2nd-year male) How many? 1

Location? Allamakee Co: S. of Yellow River, along HWY 76, (label on topo map: "Nezekaw Point")

Type of Habitat? Forest, Upland, Oak-Hickory

When? date(s): 11 May 96 time: 1:00 p.m. to \_\_\_\_\_

Who? your name and address: Jeff Dankert 4402 Markle Rd Apt 7 La Crosse WI 54601-8020

Others with you: Fred Leshner, Brian Collins

Others before or after you: None, that I know of

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.

I first saw the bird as it flew and landed on a dead snag on the forest floor. I lifted my binos, and saw that it had a reddish head, neck, throat, and breast. It was the size of a tanager or oriole. It turned, facing to my right again, and I saw the thick, tanager-like bill. I also saw the reddish-brown/gray wings, and some yellow on its belly. I alerted my two companions to it. The head and breast looked to be a burnt orange color at times, given the varied sun/shadow of the forest floor. It seemed to be interested in foraging insects. It then flew a short sally (feeding?) away from us, and I saw a reddish tail with yellow flanks and belly. A robin then chased it into the canopy, and we lost it.

Similar species; how eliminated:

It lacked the black wings of the scarlet tanager (in any plumage) and also the dark tail of the scarlet. It lacked the wing bars and bill of a female Baltimore Oriole. Its bill and crown were unlike that of a female cardinal.

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

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

Sunny - sun at 35° S when facing bird Distance - 80 ft. (est.)

Optical Equip. Leica 8x42 binos

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

P.E. w/ Scarlet Tanager. Summer Tanager was life species

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Consulted w/ those present (F.L., B.C.) and checked 3 field guides, on site, 5 min. after seeing bird and discussing it.

How long before field notes made? 24 hr. this form completed? 4 days

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