

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species Summer Tanager **How many?** one
Location? Dallas County, west of Des Moines River
Type of habitat? edge of woodland
When? date(s): 16 Oct 1999 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.
Who? Jim Dinsmore

Others with you no one

Others before or after you none

Describe the bird(s) I was playing an owl tape and had been watching many other birds when this bird suddenly appeared. I immediately recognized it as a tanager in winter plumage. In size it was perhaps 15-20% smaller than a nearby cardinal. The overall colors were greenish-yellow below and a drab olive above. I only saw the bird for about a minute but did get good looks at it.

Specifically I noted the following:

- a. The large thick bill typical of tanagers
- b. The absence of any evidence of wing bars
- c. The fact that the wings appeared to be about the same color as the back (i.e., drab olive) and showed no evidence of any black color.
- d. Several times I noted that the under tail coverts were subtly but distinctly different colored than the rest of the underparts, that is they had a distinct orange hue to their coloration. The bird was perched fairly high in a tree and had good sunlight on it, making this ~~color pattern~~ ~~specie~~ and how eliminated:

The lack of wing bars eliminates Western Tanager and the lack of black wings eliminates Scarlet Tanager. I was puzzled by the orange under the tail since none of the field guides I had showed this but I found that in Pyle et al. 1987 this color pattern is mentioned for Summer Tanager and not for Hepatic Tanager, the other species I considered a remote possibility.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? I didn't after I found the above reference

Viewing conditions: Good light, bird about 20-30 yards away, viewed with 10X binoculars.

Previous experience Limited experience with winter tanagers but knew to look at wings.

References & persons consulted before writing description: National Geographic and Robbins field guide consulted in field but of little use. Pyle used after I returned home.

How long before field notes made? Notes taken in field while viewing bird.