

DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTINGS IN IOWA
What species? SCARLET TANAGER How many? 1 - BASIC MALE
Location? MY BACKYARD NORTH OF IOWA CITY
Type of habitat? SUBURBAN YARD
When? date(s): 11 NOVEMBER 1990 time: 3:10 PM to 3:50 PM
Who? your name and address: Jim Fuller, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL, Iowa City
others with you: Tom Kent
others before or after you: _____

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.

I WAS RAKING LEAVES IN MY BACKYARD, AND WAS CARRYING A LOAD TO THE BONFIRE, WHEN I NOTICED A YELLOWISH BIRD ABOUT 10-12 FEET FROM THE BONFIRE FEEDING ON DOGWOOD BERRIES. IT APPEARED TO BE A SCARLET TANAGER, AND I RAN TO THE HOUSE AND GOT BINOCULARS. THE BIRD WAS IN THE SAME SHRUB 4-5 FEET OFF THE GROUND. IT LATER FLEW TO ANOTHER PART OF THE YARD WHERE I WATCHED IT FLY TO THE GROUND AND CATCH AND EAT WHAT APPEARED TO BE 2 MOTHS AND A CRICKET. THE BIRD WAS LARGER THAN A HOUSE SPARROW AND SMALLER THAN A ROBIN. THE HEAD (CROWN AND SWEEP) AND BACK WERE A GREENISH-YELLOW AND THE BREAST WAS MORE BRILLIANT GREENISH-YELLOW. THE THROAT AND VENT WERE LEMON YELLOW AND THE BREAST AND BELLY WERE A WHITISH YELLOW, BUT THERE WAS A SUBTLE GRAYISH STREAK DIRECTLY BENEATH THE WINGS. THE WINGS WERE BLACK WITH THE UPPER WING A LITTLE DARKER. THERE WERE NO WINGBARS. THE BILL WAS LARGE, ESPECIALLY AT ITS BASE. IT WAS A GOLDEN COLOR ON THE MANDIBLE (LOWER) WITH MORE BROWN ON TOP AND DARKLY ON THE UPPER MANDIBLE. THERE WAS A NARROW YELLOW EYE RING, AND A YELLOW LINE FROM EYE TO BILL. LEGS WERE DARK GRAY.

Similar species and how eliminated: EYE WAS BLACK.

ONLY WESTERN TANAGER HAS DARK WINGS, BUT IT HAS WINGBARS.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

EXCELLENT VIEWING CONDITIONS. SUNNY DAY WITH LATE AFTERNOON SUN IN THE SW AND I WAS LOOKING TOWARD NE AT DISTANCES OF 10 - 40 FEET. 8.5X 44 SWIFT PUDUON BINOCULARS

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

SEEN OFTEN - NOT IN NOVEMBER HOWEVER

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATE this form completed? 3 1/2 Hours

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