

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Summer Tanager How many? 1
 Location? Big Creek State Park - (P.O. G.) - along 146th St. Road
 Type of habitat? Hedgerows along gravel road
 When? date(s): May 12, 1991 time: 3:00pm to 3:15pm. - very approximately
 Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148
 others with you: Russ Widner, Carol Strohmeier, Beth Proescholdt
 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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Carol spotted this bird as we were slowly driving along and at first thought it was another Western Tanager because it had a reddish head and a lemon-green body. But we saw that no wingbars were present and that the wings were all a lemon-green color. This bird, the size of a Tanager or Oriole, had a whitish bill. This immature male was right by the road and about 15 feet away and we had excellent looks at it for a long time. As we were watching it, it sang a lovely song of a Summer Tanager.

Similar species and how eliminated: A male Western Tanager has wingbars and is yellowish on breast and belly. A male Scarlet Tanager has black wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
sunny and sun at our side, distance estimated,
8X30 binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen many male tanagers of all 3 species and a few immature males with patchy plumages.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

R.T. Peterson's Guide to the Birds

How long before field notes made? Brief notes made shortly after viewing this form completed? May 21, 1991

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