

Spencer, Iowa
April 7, 1984

RR1-

Dr. Thomas Kent

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter of March 17 on the Tanager. The bird in question had no wing bars. The wings were quite dark as I presumed it to be a male. The head had a slight rosy cast.

The bird was around our yard for a little over a week and was quite docile. Quite often it would sit on a low-growing evergreen below our family-room window. At other times it ^{would} be on the lawn or sitting on a branch of a low-growing tree or shrub.

During that period I was outside quite often doing fall yard work in my spare time. As I was working the bird wasn't a bit shy and would often fly or land within 10 feet of me.

Not having checked Brown's annotated list it didn't occur to me that it was a late date for a Scarlet Tanager. Tanagers are not very common here and I had never seen one before out of breeding plumage. We live a few miles in the country and although my wife and I told some others about it, no one else did see the bird.

I now wish that I had gotten Eldon Kavago the engineer of radio station KCO to get a picture as he does good bird photography. His wife, Dixie, is an avid birder.

I realize that at this late ^{date} and considering the circumstances there is no way you can list this as a confirmed sighting.

Sincerely,
Russ Heine