

BROKEN KETTLE BOOKS
702 E. MADISON
FAIRFIELD, IOWA 52556

515-472-8643

Proprietors: Eldon & Penny Bryant

5-8-96

Thomas Kent
211 Richards St.
Iowa City, Iowa 52246

Dear Mr. Kent,

I hope you are the right person to send this report to.

Last evening our across the street neighbor Mark Mayer and nine year old Aaron Mayer came across and asked if I could identify the injured bird they had found on their porch.

I took a Peterson Field Guide with me in case it was an unknown bird to me. The colorful red face of the bird they had in a cage ^{indicated} was a male Western Tanager that was certainly out of his normal territory. The tanager was unable to fly but was quite active otherwise.

The Mayers said they would take it to Gay Chapman the next day as she has a permit to rehabilitate injured wildlife. Since it would be many hours before Mrs. Chapman would be able to tend it I said they should try to feed it and suggested angle worms and fruit. Aaron grabbed a shovel and soon had a few worms which they dropped in the cage and which were immediately eaten and with gusto. Bette Mayer found a slice of orange and after a bit of experimentation this was also pecked at voraciously.

This was a life bird for me.

I presume you remember coming to our farm to photograph and record a family of Say's Phoebe. We moved to Fairfield about eight years ago to be near our nearest child.

I remember your father and Dr. Vane coming to the farm earlier. The day was very hot and your father suffered from that but Dr. Vane had a field day. I helped him see five life birds that included the Says Phoebe, blue grosbeak and burrowing owl. I have forgotten the others.

Sincerely,

Eldon J Bryant

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Dear Mr. Kent,

I am wondering if the account of the Western Tanager I sent this morning should be suppressed.

The Mayers took it to Mrs. Chapman who thought it was a scarlet tanager in moult.

Bent's plumage description would indicate to me it was a first year juvenal male. The face was red but not bright. The back was yellowish olive. Wing bars more yellowish but rather dull. More yellowish underneath. No black on wings.

I would like to examine it more closely but it was fully recovered this morning so Mrs. Chapman had released it.

Again if you think there is doubt ignore the account. I have seen spring and fall tanagers but never enough to be considered knowledgable.

Sincerely,

Eldon J Bryant