

APPENDIX II

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Hepatic Tanager ; Piranga flava
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 7/4/85 + 7/5/85 Time Bird Seen: 1) 7:45 pm to 8:15 pm
2) 6:15 Am to 6:40 Am

Locality: Kim / Las Animas County / Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 12x40 Nikon binoculars / 20-45 Bushnell Zoom Spacemaster Sax

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 2 (poss 3) Sex: 2 males Plumage: adult
1 female

Light conditions: 1) 7/4/85 poor late evening light
2) 7/5/85 excellent early morning sunlight from rear of

Distance from bird, and how measured: 1) 75-100 feet estimated (view from top of ravine to birds in trees)
2) 25-100 feet

Describe the bird's overall behavior: both occasions birds responded to
tape of Hepatic Tanager by immediately flying to top of Ponderosa pines
in ravine - canyon beneath the viewers & then singing for 2-15 minutes

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: on Donnelly Ranch on top of Mesa de Mayo looking down into a narrow
canyon about 100-150 deep in depth with large Ponderosa pines
growing in the ravine & oak scrub brush extensively growing in area.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Wade Leiders

14079 E. Stanford Ct #107

Aurora CO 80015

APPENDIX 1I Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Bird about size of Brewster's Blackbird with similar shape of Tanager. Gray bill and Gray Cheek patch of male birds clearly seen especially on 7/5/85. On 7/5/85 Gray on flanks also clearly seen. Red color on remainder of ^{male} birds was less bright than on Summer Tanager. Description of color as brick red is quite an accurate description on the males seen. Wings were less bright than rest of the bird. The female was only seen 7/4/85 in poorer light at a greater distance but the olive-yellow bird of similar shape accompanied the male bird as it flew from tree to tree.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Bird called immediately on both 7/4 + 7/5 in response to Nat Geo recording of Hepatic Tanager call. Call identical to tape. Call continued long after brief 30 second use of the tape, IE. for 10 minutes - 20 minutes

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Gray bill, gray cheek patch, gray flanks, & brick red color of males eliminated Summer Tanager. Grayish red wings eliminated Scarlet Tanager. Response to tapes eliminated all other species

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Seen 3 to 4 times in Arizona

This report was written from notes made during _____ after ☒ observation; from memory _____.

Name (print) : Victor M Zerbi Jr
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Signature: Victor M Zerbi Jr

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205