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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Hepatic Tanager | Piranga flava
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): May 11, 1985Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: 1 male 1 female Plumage: Same year roundLocality: Tobe Canyon Mesa de Maya Elevation: female 6500'
male 6400'Nearest town: Tobe County: Las AnimasTime(s) observed: female 1 PM male 5 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): each about 2 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

None

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Sunny - Light at my backMale 5 PM - may have beenOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7X binoculars slight lighting problemDistance, and how measured: both birds 200 yards (estimated)If photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Both birds moved from tall pine to tall pine.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

1 PM Female: Somewhat smaller than a Northern Oriole, Tanager shape with no wing bars. I was struck by the deep orange-yellow on the chin and upper breast, and the sizeable area of orange-yellow just behind the beak on the top of the head. I could not see the beak well enough to say that it was large or dark. I thought it was a female Hepatic Tanager, but I was not sure.

Description (continued):

5 PM Male: Large red tanager with no wing bars. I was struck by the brick-red color which looked most like the illustration in the Golden guide. The wings were more pale and darker than the red which covered the rest of the bird, and there was an area under the lower belly which was less red. I could see the large, dark bill so I was sure I had found a male Hepatic Tanager. However, I never could see the dark cheek patch.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Female - no song
Male: loud chuck which I could hear from way up the canyon ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile $\pm$) about 4-5/minute which lasted 15-20 minutes while I hurried down the canyon to get closer.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Female: high in pines on rim of canyon - Pines widely spaced
Male: high in pines on canyon floor - also widely spaced pines.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

From Western Tanager by no wing bars - ~~the~~ Female heavier bill than Orioles - and more intense orange-yellow - I thought probably ruled out ~~the~~ female Summer or Scarlet. Male - no crest on head - so it couldn't be Cardinal. Pale wing - so not Scarlet Tanager - large, dark bill ruled out Summer Tanager.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Seen several Scarlet Tanagers in New England
Saw one male Summer Tanager on Texas coast last Spring
These were life birds for me.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

- a) at time of observation: I had both the Golden guide and National Geographic guides in the field with me. So I looked at both books after seeing each bird.
- b) after observation: Nothing further

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: June 4, 1985

Reporting observer: L. W. Dan Bridges Signature: L. W. Dan Bridges

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All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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