

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

55-89-52

Species: Aspatie tanager
(Vernacular name)

Piranga olivacea
(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.

Date (s): 6/17/89 Time Bird Seen: About 1 hr. before sunset to

Locality: South side Royal Gorge bridge
Canon City
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 8x40 hazy binocular

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: Full adult

Light conditions: Sunny - sun low & to my right

Distance from bird, and how measured: 40-50' - estimate by calculating my no. of

Describe the bird's overall behavior: my body lengths - ca 5'

Perched in pine tree with upper & anterior 2/3 in open -
legs & tail partly obscured by branches/needles. Saw for
about 20 seconds before it flew.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Pinyon-juniper habitat on slope between end of bridge
& observation building

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

Bob Coulon - 6794 Bowman St W - Worthington, Oh 43085

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.

Medium size bird, about cardinal size but stockier. All red with an orangish cast to the color. Darker, brownish patch (triangular shape) present on cheek. Bill was long + stout, dark. Didn't notice anything special about wings or tail, seen only in flight, except they seemed to be same color as back.

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

None

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Bill shape + color eliminates cardinal.
Cheek patch indicates hepatic rather than summer tanager.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have seen hepatic tanagers in Texas + Arizona. Have seen a lot of summer tanagers + cardinals in Ohio as well as the south.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory X.

NAME (print): Juliet A. Howard

Mailing address: 314 Richards Rd. - Columbus, Ohio 43214

Signature: Juliet A. Howard

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205