

TO: HUGH KINGERY, MOUNTAIN WEST REGION
FROM: A VACATIONING MIDWESTERN BIRDER!

55-90-67 A

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species HEPATIC TANAGER
2. Number: 2 (MALE & FEMALE PAIR)
3. Location ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE (SOUTH END), CANON CITY, COLO.
4. Date: JUNE 24, 1990
5. Time Bird seen: ~ 11:00 AM to ~ 2:30 PM
OBSERVED INTERMITTENTLY DURING PERIOD
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): BIRDS WERE ABOUT CARDINAL SIZE WITH TYPICAL TANAGER SHAPE AND POSTURE. MALE: DULL BRICK RED COLOR, BRIGHTEST ON CAP, THROAT, BREAST, AND UNDER TAIL. CHEEK WAS DISTINCTLY GRAY BROWN. FLANK WAS A WASHED OUT GRAY. BACK AND WINGS WERE DULL REDDISH-BROWN WITH TAIL SOMEWHAT BRIGHTER THAN BACK. BILL WAS DISTINCTLY DARK GRAY, LARGE AND WITH UPPER MANDIBLE CURVED DOWN. FEMALE: GRAYISH GREEN-OLIVE ABOVE, BRIGHT YELLOW BELOW WITH SLIGHT ORANGISH TINGE ON THROAT & UPPER BREAST DEPENDING ON LIGHTING. DEFINITELY BRIGHTER ON THROAT & BREAST. BILL WAS SAME SHAPE & DARK GRAY.
7. Description of voice, if heard: HOARSE ROBIN-LIKE SONG, SEEMED SLOWER THOUGH.
8. Description of behavior: TANAGER MOVEMENTS WHILE FORAGING, ON SLUGGISH SIDE, DELIBERATE. SAT VERY STILL AT TIMES, WOULD FORAGE IN ONE AREA, THEN FLY TO ANOTHER TREE OR BUSH, ALWAYS IN VICINITY OF S. END OF BRIDGE. (OVER)
9. Habitat - general: ARID, SCRUBBY WOODLAND
specific: OPEN, PINE-DAK WOODLAND ON CANYON EDGE.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
SUMMER TANAGER - OUT OF RANGE & HABITAT, SUMMER IS A MUCH BRIGHTER RED OVERALL AND A DIFFERENT SHADE OF RED. BILL COLOR.
SCARLET TANAGER - OUT OF RANGE, NO BLACK WINGS, BILL COLOR,
WESTERN " - COMPLETELY DIFFERENT COLOR PATTERNS.
11. Distance (how measured)? ESTIMATED, 20 TO 50 FEET
12. Optical equipment: 7x50 BINOCULARS, 400MM CAMERA LENS
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): BRIGHT SUN FROM SIDE AND ABOVE AT INITIAL SIGHTING, EXCELLENT FOR SEEING DETAILS. AT OTHER TIMES, SUN BEHIND ME.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: NONE WITH HEPATIC. SUMMER & SCARLET TANAGERS SEEN OFTEN IN EAST. WESTERNS SEEN ON TWO TRIPS TO COLORADO.
15. Other observers: MY SON, JEFF (A BEGINNING BIRDER, HOWEVER.)
16. Did the others agree with your identification? ✓
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: NONE THAT I KNOW.
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
NATIONAL GEO. SOCIETY FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA.
AUDUBON SOCIETY MASTER GUIDE TO BIRDING VOL. 3
BOTH HELPED TO CONFIRM IDENTIFICATION.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? JULY 7, 1990 FROM FIELD NOTES WRITTEN ON SAME DAY OF SIGHTING. PHOTOS WERE TAKEN.
Norman D. Walker Address: 7741 JONATHAN CT.
Signature NORMAN D. WALKER

Date: JULY 7, 1990 City, State: WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069
PHONE (513) 779-2366

Please see reverse side for birds that should be documented.

NOTE: FROM "AMERICAN BIRDS" REPORTS, I REMEMBERED READING ABOUT HEPATIC TANAGER IN CANON CITY AREA LAST SUMMER. I WAS AWARE OF POSSIBILITY BUT STILL PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO FIND THIS PAIR AT ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE. THE BIRDS' BEHAVIOR AFFORDED ME GOOD VIEWS AND THE TIME TO GET GOOD LOOKS AT DETAILS. ALSO, I THOUGHT I HEARD A 2nd MALE SINGING FURTHER TO SOUTH OF BRIDGE BUT COULD NOT

Please document all sightings of the following species:

red-throated loon	white-fronted goose	purple gallinule	least tern
red-necked grebe	european wigeon	ruff	western kingbird
eared grebe	harlequin duck	red phalarope	bell's vireo
western grebe	king eider	all jaegers	kirtland's warbler
white pelican	goshawk	thayer's gull	brewer's blackbird
gannet	golden eagle	lesser black-backed gull	pine grosbeak
louisiana heron	peregrine falcon	laughing gull	lark bunting
all ibis	merlin	black-headed gull	leConte's sparrow
brant	yellow rail	kittiwake	bachman's sparrow
	black rail	sabine's gull	clay-colored sparrow
			harris' sparrow
			hoary redpoll

Please document all sightings of these species only in the season or location stated:

snowy egret: inland only	iceland gull: away from Lake Erie
black scoter: inland only	great black-backed gull: away from Lake Erie
surf scoter: inland only	little gull: away from Lake Erie
black vulture: central and northern Ohio	chuck-will's widow: central and northern Ohio
purple sandpiper: away from Lake Erie	bewick's wren: central and northern Ohio
baird's sandpiper: spring only	northern shrike: central and southern Ohio
long-billed dowitcher: spring only	loggerhead shrike: northern Ohio
western sandpiper: spring only	connecticut warbler: fall only
buff-breasted sandpiper: spring only	yellow-headed blackbird: away from Lake Erie
glaucous gull: away from Lake Erie	blue grosbeak: central and northern Ohio

Please document all sightings of all species in any location for:

Spring migrants: 1 month early

Fall migrants: 1 month late (except for those birds that commonly over winter such as ruby-crowned kinglet, gray catbird, brown thrasher, American robin, & rufous-sided towhee)

Please document all sightings of all species in any locations which are:

Suspected first state records

Accidental records (e.g. cinnamon teal, common eider, black-necked stilt, groove-billed ani, varied thrush, etc.)

8. BEHAVIOR: WHEN FIRST SEEN, M & F WERE TOGETHER ON BRIDGE GUY WIRES IN PLAIN VIEW, GOOD SUN, M. APPEARED TO HAVE SOMETHING WHITE IN BILL - PERHAPS A FECAL SAC. BOTH BIRDS REMAINED CLOSE TO SOUTH END OF BRIDGE DURING OUR ENTIRE VISIT. I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF A NEST IN THE AREA. THE BIRDS WERE QUIET EXCEPT FOR MALE'S OCCASIONAL SINGING. MALE SAT STILL LIKE A FLYCATCHER AT TIMES (AND EVEN SALLIED FORTH ONCE LIKE A FLYCATCHER, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY).

(NOTE, CONT.):

NOT VERIFY A THIRD INDIVIDUAL. I WILL FORWARD DUPLICATES OF SLIDES WHEN I GET VACATION PICTURES BACK FROM LAB! MDW.