

COLORADO BIRD ATLAS
VERIFICATION FORM

55-92-44

Species: HEPATIC Tanager
(Common Name)

PIRANGA FLAVA
(Scientific)

For Atlas Office Use	Topo Map--Name <u>ARRIOLA QUADRANGLE</u>
RD _____	--Number Lat <u>37.25</u> Long <u>108° 37'</u> Lat/Long _____
Tech Cn _____	--Sector SE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SW _____ CE _____ CW _____ NE _____ NW _____
Atl Off _____	

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, for research projects like the Atlas, a written description for unusual species is essential. The final atlas project must have a solid basis, and for unusual records, we require written documentation. By providing the verifying written description you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method. The Atlas Technical Committee will review the report and approve it for inclusion in the Atlas database.

This form will perpetuate your record for examination by others in the future. The Atlas requires this of every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date(s): 9/13-14-15 & 18 & 22/92 Time seen 8:15 AM to 6:40 PM
10/2-3-4/92

Locality OUR HOUSE YARD and HOME ORCHARD

Nearest town & county CORTEZ, MONTEZUMA COUNTY

Number seen	Gender	Age	Plumage	Photos
1	Males <u>1</u>	Adults <u>✓</u>	Breeding _____ Transition _____	Yes/No <u>No</u>
	Females _____	Juv/Imm <u>✓</u>	Eclipse _____ Dark phase _____	Avail. _____
	Imm/O _____	2/3 yr _____	Winter _____ Light phase _____	Encl _____
	U-1 _____	Unl _____	Other _____	

Distance from bird(s) 20'-40' Light conditions _____ Notes made: At time of sighting ✓

Optical Equip 7x35 10x50 8x50 8x23 After observation from memory ✓

Describe Habitat: This bird was observed in the yard around our house and in our adjoining small home orchard in pinyon, cottonwood, poplar, narrowleaf cottonwood, juniper, chokecherry, apple, and plum trees.

Atlas Breeding Code Overall behavior. Did it interact with any other birds? Describe.

The tanager was first seen perched on a dead branch of a pinyon, later to various trees. It was seen feeding on apples, plums, and insects. Robins, chickadees, red-naped sapsuckers, Lewis' woodpeckers, western tanagers, goldfinches, and various warblers and vireos were seen about, however each went on with their own business. It was noticeably uneasy whenever a starling perched or flew nearby. Otherwise it displayed a relatively calm attitude allowing us to observe. The first few days it could be found in early afternoon resting deep in a chokecherry clump about 3 feet from the ground. The days it was seen in September it was very calm and we observed it at length. When it returned in October it was very "jumpy", frequently interrupting his feast of fruit to look up and around, and flying away at the slightest movement.

all field marks observed: size, color, pattern, shape, bill, etc. Describe any unique features this bird had.

Size of Bullock's oriole and western tanager.

Very bright red with dull grayed-red wings, back, and tail, and ear patches
Darkish beak.

This bird looked "out of place" because of the very bright color and so different from birds seen in our area.

What song or sounds did it make?

We never heard or noticed a song or sound which we could associate with the bird until 9/18 when we saw and heard it one time. It was not heard after that.

Field marks not seen. Why not?

The lighting on this bird made a big difference in field marks noted or not noticed, particularly the ear patch which did not appear as vividly as at other times.

Variation from expected field marks

List similar species. Why and how did you eliminate them?

First impression: a cardinal but no crest

Next idea: scarlet tanager but not the black markings

To the books: summer tanager but not as bright, lacked yellow bill.

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

This was our first sighting of this particular bird for us but do know cardinals, scarlet and western tanagers.

Name (print)

GERALD FYLER + MAXINE FYLER

Signature

Gerald L. Fyler Maxine Fyler

Street address, city & zip

13990 COUNTY RD 23 DOLORES CO 81323

Telephone

(303) 565-3570

Corroborating observers not reporting separately (but encourage them to provide a report):

KAREN HARBAUGH

Name DOUG MUSCANELL

Signature

Karen Harbaugh
Doug Muscanell

Street address, city & zip 20545 COUNTY RD 11 Cortez CO 81321

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Name ANDREA ROBINSON

Signature

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