

70 (A)

CFO-ORC FILE # _____

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Recd 12/28/00 wpl

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

Species: Hepatic Tanager | Piranga flava
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 14 May 2000Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: female Plumage: adultLocality: Fairmont Cemetery Elevation: 3622'Nearest town: Lamar County: ProwersTime(s) observed: 10:20 - 11 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): several minutes at least twice

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

Chris Wood

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):

variousOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8x42 B&L Elite binocularsDistance, and how measured: 30-40' up in tree canopies (estimate)If photographed, type of equipment and film: Chris Wood's video cameraWho else photographed the bird? —

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

Foraging intensely near top of tall ponderosa pines when first seen, particularly in new shoot growth at tips of upper branches. Later seen foraging among flowers of very tall honeylocusts, presumably for insects attracted to flowers. Saw it catch and eat one unidentified wasp.

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:

Typical tanager/oriole body shape & size. Bill uniformly gun-metal gray and not as long & slender as typical oriole. Overall color yellowish. No wing-bars. Throat bright yellow. Belly dull yellow. Flanks gray-yellow. Undertail coverts bright yellow (contrasted strongly with dull grayish-yellow flanks). Gray subocular patch, but not strikingly so. Top of head, nape and mantle/back dull yellow-brown. Eye black. Legs gray-brown.

Description (continued):

Tough to get good looks at bird with patience, it would occasionally give us good side views. Very intent on feeding. Not present the next day. Spent about half its time in pines.

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

Silent

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

Native cemetery, planting dominated by widely spaced deciduous trees and pines, very little under story.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Lack of wingbars eliminated Western Tanager. Lack of dark wings eliminated Scarlet Tanager (as well as lack of green coloration). Color of bill, presence of moderate auricular patch, and gray-yellow flanks contrasting w/ undertail & throat/belly separate it from Summer Tanager.

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

First of this species for me in CO. I had seen probably 15 or so in Arizona, including at least 3-4 females. I have seen 150+ Summer Tanagers in Ohio, NC & TX previously, plus at least 5 in Colorado.

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

a) at time of observation: NG

b) after observation: all the std references & field guides

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

Reporting observer: David Leatherman Signature: David Leatherman

Address: 612 Stover St #7 Ft Collins CO 80524

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

2000 - 143

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Hepatic Tanager

(Scientific Name) *Piranga flava*

Red 2/18/01 wpl

Date(s) of occurrence: 14 May 2000

Number of birds seen: 1 female-plumaged

Location: Cemetery in Lamar, Prowers County, Colorado

Length of observation: 30 minutes

Time(s) of observation: around noon

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Dave Leatherman

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): None

Conditions: Partly cloudy. Very warm.

Optical equipment used: B & L Elite 10 x 42 binocular.

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted):

Photos: No

Habitat: The bird spent most time in Ponderosa Pines and rarely in the deciduous trees.

Details: I was birding the cemetery on my own, when Dave Leatherman called me over to point out an interesting bird that had been staying hidden in the tops of the pines. The bird was usually difficult to see well, and we had to watch it for some time before we were able to see all of the bird.

The bird was similar in size and shape to a Western Tanager, but slightly larger and heavier. It was mostly dull yellow in color. The auriculars and lores were dull gray, contrasting with the rest of the yellowish head. The throat and breast were brightest yellow, blending into a slightly less colorful belly. The flanks were grayish, and contrasted with the body more than shown in the illustration in the 3rd edition NGS guide. Wings were slightly darker, but still yellowish. No wingbars. I did not see the mantle or upperparts. Bill fairly heavy and dark gray with "tooth" on cutting edge of upper mandible more noticeable than in Western Tanager. Legs gray. Eye black.

Once we watched the bird for long enough we were able to note many features to separate this bird from Summer Tanager. The darker bill with more noticeable tooth, darker auriculars and darker flanks rule out Summer Tanager. Larger size, lack of any wingbars, darker auriculars and flanks and dark bill eliminate Western Tanager.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen hundreds of Hepatic Tanagers, mostly in Latin America and Arizona. Prior to this year I had seen two in Colorado - now I have seen 5.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): NGS guide, 3rd edition.

This report is from notes made immediately after observation.

Date of written report: 7 February 2001

Reporting observer: Christopher L. Wood, zeledonia@att.net

Signature: *Christopher L. Wood (electronic submission)*

Reporting Observer's Address: 3465 S Otis Court

City: Lakewood

State: Colorado

Zip: 80227