

56-89-55

Species: PYRRHULOXIA
(Vernacular name)PYRRHULOXIA SINUATA
(Scientific name)

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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): DEC 17, 1989 Time Bird Seen: 1⁰⁰ PM to 1⁴⁵ PM

Locality: PROWERS COUNTY SOUTHEAST OF HOLLY, COLO
1 1/2 MI. SOUTH ON HWY 98 AND APPROX 2 1/2 MI EAST ON ROAD DD
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: PENTAX 10 X 50 BINOCULARS

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♀ Plumage: GRAY-TAN

Light conditions: OVERCAST BUT LIGHT

Distance from bird, and how measured: 30-100 FT ESTIMATE

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

THE BIRD WAS FIRST SEEN AMONG OTHER SMALL BIRDS PRIMARILY SPARROWS SITTING ON A BARBED WIRE FENCE ALONG THE ROADSIDE. THE BIRD SEEMED TO FRIGHTEN EASILY COMPARED TO THE SPARROWS AND FLY APART FROM THE OTHER BIRDS. FLIGHT WAS OFTEN IN SHORT PATTERNS OF LESS THAN 20-100 FEET BUT DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW. BIRD WOULD DISAPPEAR IN THE WEEDS OR HIDE IN A TREE. FOR SEVERAL MINUTES THE BIRD PERCHED NEARLY MOTIONLESS IN THE BRANCHES OF A COTTONWOOD TREE.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

FIRST SEEN ON FENCE ALONG ROADSIDE. DENSE WEEDY & GRASSY BOARDWALK. SOUTH OF ROAD WAS A FEED YARD INCLUDING SILAGE PIT & FEED MILL FOR ADJACENT CATTLE LOT. AREA SURROUNDED BY WEEDS, LOW GRASS & FEW COTTONWOOD & ELM TREES, APPROX 1 INCH FRESH SNOW COVERED GROUND.

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

MARK JANOS

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.

BIRD WAS ROBIN-SIZED TO SLIGHTLY SMALLER APPROX, 7-8 INCHES IN LENGTH WITH A LONG TAIL. OVERALL COLOR OF BACK WAS GRAY TAN WITH LITTLE RED ON PRIMARY WING FEATHERS AND TAIL. HEAD CONTAINED A RAGGED RED CREST. THE BREAST WAS BUFF-YELLOW-TAN AND THE MID-CENTRAL AREA BELOW THE NECK CONTAINED A BLUSH OF RED. THE BILL WAS SHORT TAN-GRAY (HORN COLOR). THE SHARPLY CURVED UPPER MANDIBLE FORMED A NOTCH OR INVERTED "V" SHAPE. AROUND THE BILL THE FACE CONTAINED A THIN AREA OF RED WHICH ENCIRCLED THE DARK BLACK EYES.

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

THE BIRD MADE NO SOUNDS

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

DIFFERENTIAL WAS BETWEEN PYRRHULOXIA AND FEMALE (OR IMMATURE) CARDINAL. MAIN FEATURES WERE THE BUFF-YELLOW BREAST, AREAS OF RED-GRAY COLOR LIMITED TO CREST, AROUND EYES, TAIL, BREAST. EDGE OF WING AND THE SHORT STUBBY BEAK WITH SHARPLY ANGLED (NOTCHED) EDGE OF UPPER MANDIBLE.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

NONE

This report was written from notes made during after ☒ observation; from memory ☒

NAME (print): KENDAL C. KNAUS

Mailing address: 2405 SANTA FE AVE, LA JUNTA, COLO 81050

Signature: Kendal C Knaus

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206

Species: *Pyrrhuloxia*
(Vernacular name)

Cardinalis sinuatus
(Scientific name)

56-89-53

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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): 17 December 1989 Time Bird Seen: ~ 1:00 pm to ~ 2:00 pm

Locality: Holly, Prowers Co., Colorado [1 1/2 mile south of Holly on Hwy 89]
then ~ 2.7 miles east on RD DD. ~ 1/4 west of KS border, near S. side of
Nearest town, county and state: Arkansas River.

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs, KOWA TSN-4 Scope at 20-60 X.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♀ Plumage: Like dull female w/ gray bill (? juv.)

Light conditions: heavy overcast

Distance from bird, and how measured: 50-150 feet; estimated.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Rather secretive; could disappear & be hard to find for long periods. The bird sometimes perched up, easy to see, on fence posts and fence rails and twice high (~30 feet), halfway up a leafless deciduous tree. The bird was somewhat nervous acting - raising the spiky crest and twitching its long tail. It associated with White-crowned Sparrows, flying & perching with them, but flew off moderate distances when startled (not dropping into weeds like the sparrows). In flight the long tail was loosely behind.

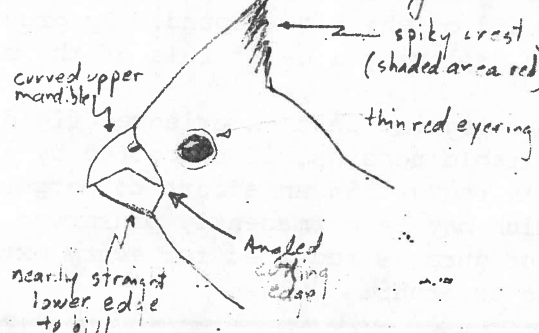
Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Heavy weedy growth and fence lines along the roadside. Occasionally perched high in leafless deciduous trees. Used the general, weedy overgrown area around a filled insilage pit. (A few hundred yards from corral for feeding cattle).

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

Kendall Knave, La Junta, CO

include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on snape or size or bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field. About 8 1/2" long; about robin-sized but more slender and long-tailed. Has slender, thin spiky crest - held erect when alert & sometimes folded back to nape. Eye black. Legs dark grayish. Overall dull grayish-brown in color. Upperparts (head & back) plain brownish gray. Underparts lighter with yellowish-buff tones. Wing slightly darker gray than back & lacks wing bars. Reddish tones are present as a slash of color on the folded primaries. Tail is blackish with a red wash to it. The only other red is the tip and back edge of the crest, and a thin distinct bright red eyering (but not on face). Bill is grayish and about same color of as the face. The bill shape is distinctive: Rather smallish, but short and parrot-like. It has a roundly curved upper edge (culmen). The cutting edge of the upper mandible is sharply angled up (an inverted "V"). We studied the bill shape and features closely through the scope at some length. Gray bill color is consistent with immature or winter female (or both) *Pyrrhuloxia*. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard, including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:



Did not call.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Crested appearance eliminates most other species. It was clearly not a jay or kingfisher (blue to gray w/ long pointed bills). Titmice are too small, active, and small-billed. Warblers and Phainopepla lack red tones, are smaller, have smaller, longer bills. Most similar bird is female (and imm.) Cardinal. Female Cardinal has pink bill, more red tones on face, tail & wings. Immature female most similar but lacks bright red eyering. Cardinal bill is much differently shaped. It is longer, more pointed & swollen in the cardinal with a nearly straight culmen and much straighter cutting edge. Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen both *Pyrrhuloxia* & N. Cardinals on several occasions. N. Cardinals more recently & in more plumages. I haven't seen *Pyrrhuloxia* in 3 years.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ☒ observation; from memory ___.
 → same day. After count done

NAME (print): MARK JANOS

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Signature: 81050

Return to:

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 869 Milwaukee Street
 Denver, Colorado 80206



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56-89-53

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PYRRHULOXIA

Cardinalis sinuatus

Prowers Co.

12-20-89

Duane Nelson

12/20/89

Record

Duane F. Nelson