

A

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐ UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: PHAINOPEPLA (Vernacular Name) 1 PHAINOPEPLA NITENS (Scientific Name)Date(s): SEPT. 8, 1989Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Imm. [?] Plumage: GREY-BROWN IMM.Latilong: 18 Distribution Code: ACC. Habitat Code: PJ-D5Locality: WATTS' PROPERTY, W. OF PENROSE Elevation: 5300' ~~4800'~~ (?)Nearest town: PENROSE County: FREMONTTime(s) observed: ABOUT 10-10:30 a.m.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): about 30 min.

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

JIM WATTS; 518 A, PENROSE, CO (719) 372-6679

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

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

BIRD IN FULL SUN MOST OF THE TIME.CLEAR SKY, BRIGHT SUN; BIRD N N ^E FROM OBSERVEROptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BUSHNELL CUSTOM 10X40Distance and how measured: 100' (?) , ESTIMATED

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird: JIM WATTS

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

OF A BUSH TO "HAWK" AN INSECT.MAINLY, SAT ON TOP OF BUSH (OR SMALL TREE); ALSO, FLEW OUT

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 observed in the field:

Tall, prominent crest was most noticeable; feathers nondescript grey-brown color, buffy indefinite wing bars; long tail

Description (continued): which fanned when bird perched; tan wing patches on tips of wings observed when bird flew. when perching, the feathers were fluffed up, but in flight bird was ~~more~~ slender in appearance

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

BIRD GAVE A FAIRLY LOW, MUSICAL WHISTLE SEVERAL TIMES FROM THE INTERIOR OF A BUSH

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

A MIXED HABITAT OF JUNIPER, SOME PINYON ABOUT ~~100~~ 100' FROM LANDSCAPED AREA

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

ONLY OTHER POSSIBLE SPECIES WAS A TITMOUSE (COLOR AND CREST); BUT BEHAVIOR AND SIZE VERY DIFFERENT

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

AM WELL ACQUAINTED WITH SPECIES AFTER MANY YEARS' RESIDENCE IN SO. CAL., INCLUDING A NESTING PAIR AT RES. ^{IN CALIF.}

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

a) At time of observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

b) After observation: _____

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation X, from memory X

Date and time report was written: SEPT. 11, 1989

Reporting observer: SYLVIA W. WHEELOCK Signature: Sylvia W. Wheelock

Address: 1016 SHORT ST., CANYON CITY, CO 81212

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205



RARE BIRD
ALERT!

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS FOR THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

48-89-36

Species: PHAINOPEPLA; PHAINOPEPLA NITENS
(Vernacular name) (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.

Dates (s): 9-9-89-9-11-89 Time Bird Seen: WATCHED FOR A TOTAL OF 2-3 HOURS, MOSTLY ON 9-10

Locality: 518 A ST

PENROSE (FREMONT) COLORADO 81240
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: MINOLTA 10X35 BINOCULARS; BUSHNELL SCOPE-15-60

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: IMMATURE OR ♀

Light conditions: POOR AT TIMES, EXCELLENT IN AFTERNOON 9-10

Distance from bird, and how measured: CLOSEST AT ABOUT 40'

Describe the bird's overall behavior: FREQUENTLY SAT IN DEAD JUNIPER WITH FEATHERS RUFFLED (IN COOL WEATHER); IN WARM WEATHER, SOME FLYCATCHING ACTIVITY, MORE ACTIVE & ALERT, FEEDING ON RUSSIAN OLIVES & RED BERRIES ON ASPARAGUS

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
MOSTLY IN DEAD JUNIPERS, SOMETIMES NEAR BASE OF TREE IN DENSE 3-LEAF SUMAC; AREA SURROUNDED BY 4-WING SALTBUCH, WEEDY & OVERGROWN.

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

SYLVIA WHELOCK - CANYON CITY, PETER GENT - BOULDER, MARK JANOS - LA JUNTA;

JACK REDDAIL - ENGLEWOOD; HILDA BARKE - PENROSE; AREW SMITH, CINDY HARRINGTON;

BOB BURMAN, CHUCK & JO ROMERO, DOUG ALLEN - ALL OF COLO SPRGS;

VAN & CRYSTAL TRIAN - PUEBLO

APPENDIX 11 Continued

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.

SLENDER, GRAYISH-BROWN BIRD, A LITTLE SMALLER THAN A ROBIN. DISTINCT CREST, SOMETIMES STICKING ALMOST STRAIGHT UP, TAIL LONG, DARK. SHOULDERS BUFFY-COLORED, WING COVERTS HAD BUFFY MARGINS, WHICH FORMED A PALE WING PATCH IN FLIGHT. EYES APPEARED BROWNISH MOST OF THE TIME, BUT SEEN TO BE RED IN GOOD LIGHT. FEET DARK, BILL SHORT, THIN, GRAY, UPPER MANDIBLE SLIGHTLY CURVED.

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

SOFT, LOW WHISTLE - HEARD OCCASIONALLY WHILE BIRD IN BUSHES, ONCE AS IT CAME CLOSE TO FEED ON ASPARAGUS BERRIES

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

PLAIN TITMOUSE: THIS BIRD OBVIOUSLY MUCH LARGER, ~~NEW~~ LONGER TAIL, CREST MUCH MORE PRONOUNCED, HABITS DIFFERENT

Prior experience with this and similar species: TITMOUSE SEEN & HEARD ON OUR PROPERTY FREQUENTLY. PHAINOPEPLAS SEEN ON OCCAS. VISITS TO ARIZONA

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

Name (print) : ROSIE WATTS

Mailing address: 518 A ST PENROSE, CO 81240

Signature: Rosie Watts

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205



PERCHED ON ASPARAGUS PLANT,
EATING THE FEW REMAINING
RED BERRIES

PHAINOPEPLA

9-10-89

SIM WATTS

518 A ST

PENROSE CO 81240

FLYING TOWARDS ASPARAGUS
PLANT

PHAINOPEPLA

9-10-89

SIM WATTS

518 A ST

PENROSE CO 81240

A

48-89-36

address): - see above Sylvia Wheelock	Peter Gent	Jack Redall	Van Truan
_____ Cañon City	Boulder	Denver	Pueblo

APPENDIX II Continued

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.

Slender; uniformly grey; long tail; thin, long, prominent crest; erect ~~posture~~ posture; when swooping down from flycatching activity buffy patches in wings seen; fanned tail occasionally when changing perched position, red eye, slightly decurved bill, "buffy" margins and wing coverts when perched

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

A slurred single note resembled in pitch & quality, but much quieter, by one of the magpies. Repeat 2-5 times when perched.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

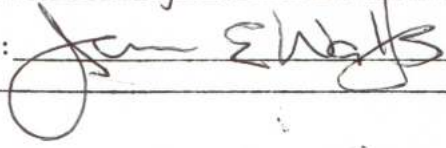
Blue Jay - this bird too small & slender, - I mention this because when I first saw this bird it was in silhouette & my first thought was blue jay.

Plain Titmouse (common in this area) this bird too big, crest too long, has red eye, long tail & behaved quite unlike a titmouse. Seen many males in AZ, & acquainted myself with their call last winter.

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

Name (print) : Jim Watts

Mailing address: 518 A ST Penrose, Co. 81240

Signature: 

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

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

48-89-36

A

Species: Phainopepla
(Vernacular name)

Phainopepla nitens
(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): 9 Sept 1989 Time Bird Seen: 10:15 am to 10:45

Locality: Jim & Rosie Watts property
Penrose, Colo Fremont County
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binoculars & KOWA TSN-4 Scope 20-60X

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♀ Plumage: 1st year (immature)

Light conditions: Overcast, but fair

Distance from bird, and how measured: Estimated as close as 30 feet.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Loose-jointed and floppy in flight. Flew from inside a juniper to the tip of a small juniper where it perched. Sometimes rotated & sort of wagged long slender tail. Perched in interior of dead snag, about 6' off ground - fluffed feathers, hunched up, looking cold & ragged, closed eyes & dozed. Sometimes raised forehead & tall, ragged, shiky crest. Flew off in high, direct, loose flight.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Scattered juniper & dead juniper snags in brushy grassland.

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

Jim & Rosie Watts

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.

Bird was about 7" long; a small, slender long-tailed bird, slightly smaller than nearly Sage Thrasher. The bird was dull-colored, without any bright marks. Head, back and undersides dull gray with brownish tint to tail, spiky crest and back feathers. Tail & wings a little darker gray-brown. Edges of lesser and median wing coverts, as well as secondaries and primaries (except for outer 1" of primaries) with obvious whitish edges. This gives an appearance of weak wing bars. In flight there is an inconspicuous pale gray panel in outer wing formed by pale gray centers to primary feathers. Thin, shaggy crest sticks straight up. Legs & toes black. Eye dark brown with reddish tinge. Bill medium-long with prominent nostril, curved culmen & black.

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

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Presence of crest rules out most other birds.

Waxwings have yellow-tipped tail, crest is neater; is streaked (imm.) or yellowish bellied w/ wing markings.

Plain Titmouse has short crest, is much smaller; lacks whitish wing edging, has plain dark eye; shorter tail; different flight patterns & actions.

Pyrrhuloxia & Cardinals have reddish tones; large bills; are larger.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen several Phainopeplas since 1978 in S.E. Ariz & West Texas.

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

NAME (print): MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 902 COLORADO AVE LA JUNTA, CO 81050

Signature: Mark Janos

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

A

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: PHAINOPEPLA | PHAINOPEPLA NITES
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): SEPTEMBER 10 1989Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: IMMATURELocality: 518 A ST Elevation: 5000'Nearest town: PENROSE County: FREMONTTime(s) observed: 10 AM - 12 NOONDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): ONE HOUR

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

ROSIE & JIM WATTS, VAN TRUAN

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

MARK JANOS

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

SUNLIGHT & PARTLY CLOUDYOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 X BINOCULARSDistance, and how measured: 20 YARDS CLOSEST

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird? JIM WATTS

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

FEEDING ON BERRIES, OCCASIONAL FLY-CATCHING FROM TOP OF JUNIPERS.

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:

A MOSTLY GRAY BIRD, SMALLER THAN ROBIN, LARGER THAN WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE (BOTH IN SAME AREA) WITH A CONSPICUOUS CREST THAT WAS HELD ERRECT MOST OF THE TIME. THE BIRD HAD A RELATIVELY LONG TAIL. THE EYE WAS DARK RED. THE WING

Description (continued):

COVERTS WERE EDGED WITH BUFF (ACCORDING TO MASTER GUIDE THIS INDICATES AN IMMATURE RATHER THAN A FEMALE). WHEN SITTING WITH WING DROPPED AND IN FLIGHT THERE WAS A NOTICEABLE GREY WING PATCH IN THE OUTER PRIMARIES. THE BILL WAS SHORT AND STRAIGHT, THE LEGS WERE DARK. THE BIRD ATE BERRIES AND WENT FLYCATCHING.

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

GAVE OCCASIONAL SINGLE NOTE CALL BOTH IN FLIGHT AND PERCHED

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

JUNIPER TREES AND SMALLER SCRUB TYPE BUSHES.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

WESTERN WOOD PEWEE - CREST, EYE-COLOR, BODY COLOR AND SHAPE
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - " " " "
ALL PHOEBES - " " " "

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

HAVE SEEN PHAINOPEPLAS MANY TIMES IN ARIZONA & CALIFORNIA.

VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE OTHER SPECIES MENTIONED ABOVE.

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

a) at time of observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE, AUDUBON MASTER GUIDE

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: SEPT 10 1989 10pm

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 SOUTH 35th ST, BOULDER, CO 80303.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

