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JP 5/15/73

Colorado Field Ornithologists

Report of Unusual Sight Record

Species: PIRANGA OLIVACEA (Scarlet Tanager)

Date: 13 July 1972 Hour: 1030

Location: Castlewood Dam

Habitat: Mixed coniferous/deciduous

Who first noted the bird? Mrs. Ellen S. Bartol

Others who confirmed identification: Dominic A. Bartol Jr.

Did you know it was unusual when you observed it? Yes.

Did you have a good opportunity for observation (time, light, view, binoculars)?

Yes. Light level about 3200 Kelvin as I was preparing to color photograph a Broad Tailed Hummer feeding young at the time. Since Ellen (Mrs. Bartol) spotted

the bird about 2/3 up a 50 ft Pine near me, I had difficulty finding the bird at first since I was about 50 ft from Mrs. Bartol and in deep bushes that blocked my view. I came out of the thicket and obtained a Bausch and Lomb telescope equipped with a 20-45x zoom lens. Mrs. Bartol pointed out the bird that could be seen from about 50 ft clearly without optical aid. I studied the bird first with eye unaided and then with the telescope while Mrs. Bartol did likewise with 7x50 Jason binoculars. Robin sized the male is reported to be the only north american red bird with black wings and tail. These we distinctly observed but it served to recall that we probably saw a female (top part of body greenish, yellowish underneath) near the same spot a year ago and our bird group to include us mis-identified it. Next spring of course we shall search for the flimsy type nest this bird constructs.

What experience have you had with this species previously? none

How did you identify the bird? Describe in detail what you saw and heard in the field. Robin Sized; bright red or scarlet body; black wings and tail. We checked field marks against Robbins, Peterson, and National Geographic.

What similar species might it have been? Hepatic Tanager lacks black wings and tail and would be far north of its normal range, observed bird displayed no yellow and black as worn by the W. Tanager.

no photos taken as my equipment was set up at a Hummer nest.

*Dominic A. Bartol Jr.*

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2718 N. Prospect

Colorado Springs, Colo 80907

20 Aug 72