

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Scarlet Tanager; Piranga olivacea  
(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): 23 Sept 1990 Time Bird Seen: ~7:25 a.m. to for about 5 min.Locality: Canyon City River Walk  
Canyon City, Colo.  
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs.If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: -Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male Plumage: winter / first yearLight conditions: Sunny; but low light, early morningDistance from bird, and how measured: Estimated 75'

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Was with a female Western Tanager, mixed groups of warblers. High in willows above marshy area along river.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian Woodland.

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

None

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. *Medium-sized passerine, about 8" long. Green above with grayish-green face. Cold yellow below. Black wings without any wingbars. Black tail. Overall "colder" toned than West. Tanager.*

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:

*Western Tanager lacks black wings, has wingbars.  
Summer Tanager has golden or orangish tints, lacks black wings.  
Hepatic " is orange, lacks black wings.*

Prior experience with this and similar species:

*I've seen all tanagers in N.A., including a similar winter ♂ last fall in Rocky Ford*

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

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 10 SEDUM CT. PUEBLO, CO 81201

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

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