

Colorado Field Ornithologists-Sight Record Form

Species: Scarlet Tanager. Scientific Name: *Piranga olivacea*.

ACCEPT 7-0

Date: April 30, 1995.

Number of birds seen: 1. Sex: male. Plumage: breeding adult.

Locality: Below the Two Buttes Reservoir dam.

Nearest town: Two Buttes. County: Baca.

Times Observed: 2:20PM-2:22PM and 6:40PM-6:45PM.

Duration of observation: 8 minutes.

Other observers with me: None.

Other observers who saw the bird independently: None that I know of.

Light conditions: excellent.

Optical equipment used: 10X40 Bausch&Lomb Binoculars.

Distance from bird: 15 to 30 feet.

Describe the bird's behavior: The bird was seen low in the trees. I watched the bird many times fly from tree to tree. The bird was near a male Black-and-white Warbler and male Rose-breasted Grosbeak during the later time period.

Describe the bird: The size of the bird was about 7 inches. The overall shape was typical tanager shape. The plumage was adult male in breeding plumage. The color pattern is as follows: the bill was yellow. The head was bright red. The nape, back and rump all bright red. The wings were all dark black. The tail was also dark black. The chin, throat, breast and underparts were all bright red with some small green splotches on underparts. The eyes were black. The legs and feet were black. The bill shape was small and thick. The shape of the wings and tail were typical tanager shaped. I identified this colorful bird by it's bright red plumage and black wings and tail and by it's tanager shape.

Describe the bird's song and calls: The bird sang two times. The song was a soft and not loud sound. I cannot describe the song.

Describe the habitat: The bird was seen in a riparian area below Two Buttes Reservoir dam in Southeastern Colorado.

How did you eliminate similar species: Summer and Hepatic Tanager: Both do not have black wings.

Western Tanager: This species only has a reddish orange head, not red everywhere.

Vermilion Flycatcher: This species has a thin flycatcher bill and not thick like tanagers. Also the entire back is brownish black going to the tail.

What is your prior experience with this species and other similar species:

Scarlet Tanager: one previous in Colorado on February 5, 1994 an immature male at Boulder.

Summer Tanager: five in Colorado as of April 30, 1995. Saw one female at Lamar on May 8, 1995. Also many in Arizona.

Hepatic Tanager: one in Colorado May 15, 1993 at Pueblo City Park and one in Arizona in 1993.

Vermilion Flycatcher: two in Colorado one male at Chatfield State Park and another

male at Hasty Campground in 1994. Also many in Arizona and a few in Southern California.

List Books if helped with identification: National Geographic Society's Birds of North America.

This report was made with notes taken during sighting.

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival. Signature: *Brandon K. Percival*

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