

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-RC FILE #: 1997-104
rec'd 9-9-97

RESULTS: ACCEPTED 6-1

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES: Scarlet Tanager Piranga olivacea
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: 6/9/97, 6/12/97

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: Male PLUMAGE: breeding

EXACT LOCATION: North Shanahan Ridge, City of Boulder Open Space

COUNTY: Boulder NEAREST TOWN: Boulder ELEVATION: ~5600 feet

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 3 mins ^(6/9) 5 mins ^(6/12) TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 1100 ^(6/9) 1330 ^(6/12)

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW THE BIRD(S) WITH YOU:

NONE

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

DON'T KNOW

LIGHT CONDITIONS (QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION):

6/9 → Bright and clear; sun striking bird at ~45°, coming through an open stand of P. pine

6/12 → Bright and clear, afternoon sun above bird " " " " " " " " " "

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

Nikon 9x25 Travelite II binoculars

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 6/9 → ~20 m
6/12 → ~10 m - ~25 m

WAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? NO IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? _____

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? _____

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

6/9 } General: open stand of Ponderosa pine, little underbrush (grasses, sparse small shrubs)
6/12 }
6/9 } Specific: scarlet Tanager was flying from one ponderosa pine to another, perching 3-8 m above ground
6/12 }

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

6/9 → scarlet Tanager appeared to be foraging in the pines. A female Western Tanager perched once two feet away on the same branch, faced away, spread her wings and raised her tail. scarlet Tanager then flew off out of sight.

6/12 → scarlet Tanager spent considerable effort chasing off a male Western Tanager from whichever ^{ponderosa pine} the male Western Tanager attempted to perch in within ~25 meter diameter area. ^{once} observed female Western Tanager with resting ~15 meters away from scarlet Tanager.
material

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE THE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

There's really no mistaking this bird. All feathers red except for dark black wings and tail; black eyes; size about the same as a Western Tanager.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

The bird was so distinctive I did not consider any other species. Its bill was too thick and rounded to be an oriole; its red plumage was too strikingly, uniformly red and its wings and tail too uniformly black to be a Summer Tanager or Hepatic Tanager.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

I had never seen a Scarlet Tanager before. I have seen male and female Western Tanagers numerous times; I have never seen a Summer Tanager or Hepatic Tanager.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

National Geographic - Field Guide to Birds of North America

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING X OR AFTER X
OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 7/31/97

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