

Rec'd 6/1/00 upl.

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CFO-RC FILE# \_\_\_\_\_

<p align="center"><b>COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM</b></p>
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**SPECIES:** Scarlet Tanager

**DATE OF OCCURRENCE:** May 20, 2000

**NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN:** 1      **SEX:** male      **PLUMAGE:** Spring (breeding)

**LOCATION:** Dry Creek, Section 13, T 38 N, R 6 E, NMPM

**COUNTY:** Rio Grande      **NEAREST TOWN:** Monte Vista      **ELEVATION:** 8150 feet

**LENGTH OF OBSERVATION:** 6 minutes      **TIME OF OBSERVATION:** 1:30 pm MDT

**OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD:**

Both Dave and Dru Binney observed this bird.

**LIGHT CONDITIONS (Quality and Relationship to Bird):** 1:30 pm, in open sun, clear sky.

We were due south of the bird in excellent light.

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:** Nikon 7x35 and Nikon 8x40 binoculars.

**DISTANCE FROM BIRD (Estimated unless otherwise noted):** 80 feet (measured).

We were sitting inside the cab of a pickup truck with a clear view out the passenger window.

**WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED?** No.

**GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD OCCURRED:**

Dry Creek is a seasonal stream (flowing on the date of observation). At 8150-ft elevation the vegetation is dominated by Rabbit Brush and various grasses with widely scattered Currant, Skunk Bush, Snowberry, and a few Junipers. The bird was on several currant bushes beside a small water impoundment on the stream.

**DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING, FEEDING, HABITS, BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORT OF THE IDENTIFICATION):**

The bird was alternately perched and moving about on top of and near the top of several currant bushes (which were in leaf) and a skunk bush (which was mostly bare). Behavior was not a part of this identification.

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**DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO THE MARKS/FEATURES YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD. (Include size, shape, plumage, tail, etc.)**

A striking red bird with black wings and black tail; the back was red. This specimen was easily discriminated from the Summer Tanager, Vermilion Flycatcher, and the Cardinal by the pattern of black on the tail and wings. It was about 7 to 7.5 inches long.

**DESCRIBE SONG/CALLS IF ANY:** We did not hear the bird.

**DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:**

This bird had a red back, thus eliminating the flycatcher; it had black wings and tail, thus eliminating the Cardinal and Summer Tanager. With the extended, excellent viewing such as we had, there is no way to confuse this uniquely marked bird with any other species.

**WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?** This is the first Scarlet Tanager we have seen. We have observed Cardinals in Florida, Texas and Southern Baja California. We have observed Vermilion Flycatchers in Southern Baja California. We have never seen a Summer Tanager.

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

Peterson's Field Guide, Western - 1990

Peterson's Field Guide, Eastern - 1980

Nat. Geographic Soc., Birds of No. America - no date

Bailey and Niedrach, Birds of Colorado - 1965

The bird is easily identified with the opportunity for clear unimpeded viewing, which was the case here.

**THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM MEMORY.**

**DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT:** May 29, 2000

**REPORTING OBSERVER:**

Dave Binney

**SIGNATURE:**

*Dave Binney*

Dru Binney

**SIGNATURE:**

*Dru Binney*

**SEND REPORT TO:**

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