

0-1990-03

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION
AMERICAN BIRDS

DOCUMENTATION --
RARE BIRD SIGHTING

I

Species: Vermilion Flycatcher
(Vernacular name)

Pyrocephalus rubinus
(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.

Date (s): Oct. 4 and Nov. 7 Time Bird Seen: 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM
10:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Locality: My yard at Ouray National Wildlife Refuge
Ouray, Uintah county, Utah
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male Plumage: First nuptial plumage

Light conditions: Full sun

Distance from bird, and how measured: At first observation on both dates less than 20 feet.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Flycatcher like- perched on an exposed wire- moving out to hawk insects and than returning to perch on exposed branches and wires.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

House yard where branches and wires were available.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
Herb Troester, Refuge Manager, Ouray NWR, Randlett, UT 84063

Dick Sjostrom, Assistant Manager, Ouray, Randlett, UT 84063
NWR

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.

A very small flycatcher with an orange/red crown and orange/red breast, sides and flanks. The plumage was not as brilliant as some males I have seen in Arizona. I think the bird was an immature male just getting it's nuptial plumage. The plumage was noticeably more brilliant on Nov. 7 than on Oct. 4.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

none heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

No other North American flycatcher is so brilliantly and distinctly colored. I had no doubt that it was a Vermilion even before I used my field glasses.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have seen many Vermilion Flycatchers in Arizona where I lived and birded and where I worked for Arizona State University collecting data on riparian bird species.

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

NAME (print): Michael L. Lange

Mailing address: c/o Ouray NWR, Randlett, Utah 84063

Signature: *Michael L. Lange*

Return to:

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