

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Scientific Name: *phoeniceus ludovicianus*

Date: 11/6/85

Time: 16:30

Length of time observed: 1.5 mins.

Number: 1

Age: Juvenile

Sex: ?

Location: Parley's Gulch, SLC, UT

Latilong: 6

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 15 feet

Light conditions: Good - visibility

Optical equipment: Bushnell 8X40 wide angle Explorer

Weather:

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

The bird was an inch or two smaller than the nearby robins, of bulky build with a very large bill. There was white stripes over the eye and one down the middle of the crown extending to the nape. Two white wing bars on a dark wing. There was a light colored (white?) throat with a yellowish wash across the breast and a clean belly. There was pronounced streaking across the entire breast and down the sides -

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: No sounds

Behavior: Bird sat on an exposed twig about 3/4 of the way up a tree. It was on the outside edge of the tree facing outward sitting still. It then flew

Habitat: Directly across the road and stream into the stream side trees.
Found in large stream side trees.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

It was similar to the black headed Grosbeak which I have seen in Parley's Gulch many times during the spring and summer. The difference that I noticed was that the streaking on the breast was bold and extended across the entire breast, not just along the sides.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have seen the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the spring in Texas and several times in December in Mexico.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

I was told about the bird by Ella Sorensen however the bird I saw differed from her description by having a yellow wash across the breast. I consulted National Geographic Birds of N. A. both before and after I saw the bird.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Considered a casual species in Utah with previous records for this latitude.

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ___ notes made later ___ from memory *

Observer: Clyde A. Morris

Signature: Clyde A. Morris

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Other observers who independently identified this bird: Joan Wolfe

Date prepared: 12/2/85

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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