

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Latilong _____ Record type _____ Serial No. _____
 Habitat _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Summer Tanager
 Scientific Name Piranga rubra
 Obs. date 2 Nov 1991 Time(s) 4:00-4:20pm(1600-1620)
 Duration of obs. twenty minutes
 Distance from bird 25 feet
 Light conditions sky clear, sun bright, low to the West
 Optical equip. Pentax 10x50 binos, Ross 117x35 (Esther)
 Photo equip. none
 Notes made at time of sighting xx Date report prepared _____
 Notes made later from memory _____ 2 Nov 1991

Weather at time of this observation.

Cold, clear, occasional breeze.
 Temperature approx. 38° F.

Prior weather and number of days since change Warm fall
 till 7 days before, then wind, rain, 2 days of
 light snow, followed by lowered temperatures-
 lows to 14° F reported

Locality Moab, Grand County, Utah, Lat. 18
The Nature Conservancy Mathison Wetlands
Preserve, North end near Colo. River bridge--
aprox. 2 blocks down small road that borders
3 man-made ponds(now dry)

Enter number of birds in each category.	GENDER(S)	AGES(S)	PLUMAGE(S)	PHOTO(S)
Total number observed.	Males <u>1</u>	Adults <u>1</u>	Breeding _____ Transition _____	Available _____
<u>1</u>	Females _____	Juv/Imms _____	Eclipse _____ Dark phase _____	Enclosed _____
	♀ or Imms _____	2/3 yr birds _____	Winter <u>1</u> (beak) Light ph. _____	
	Unknowns _____	Unknowns _____	Other _____	

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

In size the bird was close to the size of a Western Tanager, a little smaller than the local N.(Bullock's) Orioles. Esther said just slightly smaller than Scarlet Tanager.

The over all color was vivid red. Esther, as a painter, described it as cadmium--medium cadmium red would be her choice to paint it. It seemed not quite as vivid as Vermilion Flycatcher but very close. The bird was side-lighted by the low sun and the red plumage, like the Vermilion Flycatcher's, had the quality of seeming to glow in the light. The body was uniformly red. The head, nape, and back were equally red. In direct sun the face and upper breast seemed slightly rosier or more intense in color. There was just a slight tendency toward orangish-red on the lower belly in direct sun. The under tail coverts were vivid red.

Only the wings and tail(upper and under) were not uniformly red with the rest of the body. With direct sun they seemed almost the same red as the body. When turned away from the sun they had a brownish cast that made them seem a little darker than the body. When the sun got so low that the bird was totally in shade, the wings and tail were distinctly darker, forming a definite wing-tail/body contrast but still seeming to be a brownish cast not solid brown(as are the Vermilion Flycatcher's).

There was no other pattern, no eyering, no suggestion of wingbars.

The legs were not well seen but appeared medium in color--neither dark nor light.

The beak was tanager shaped--very much like Western Tanagers but noticeably much larger in proportion to bird's head, especially when the head feathers were sleeked down. The culmen seemed just a little bit curved. The beak color seemed to vary as the bird moved or turned its head. In direct light it appeared dull yellowish, especially at the base. At other times it appeared darker--or duskier--although not dark. My impression was as if a dark layer was under the yellowish layer of keratin.

The head was round and the head feathers often were erected. The body feathers generally were fluffed giving the bird a rounded appearance. Even though the bird stayed in one place for twenty minutes it did not appear ill or in distress(based on experience with raptors and passerines in a rehabilitation center).

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

The legs were not well seen. Most of the time the bird was perched with his feathers fluffed so the legs were obscured.

Variations from expected field marks. A slight orange-red on lower belly. At first the beak. Some guides show/describe it as yellowish, others show as light/dark like the birds. Audubon Soc. Master Guide to Birding, Vol 3(1983) p.194 states "...bills that are paler in the breeding season, but darker (especially in immatures) at other times of the year."

This was my basis for assigning this bird to winter plumage, as otherwise Summer Tanagers retain the same plumage year-round.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

N. Cardinal is larger, crested, has red conical beak, black mask, long tail. Vermilion Flycatcher (has been reported in the Preserve) has smaller body, much smaller beak, more upright posture, flycatching behaviour, dark brown wings, tail, and mask. Hepatic Tanager has two-tone body color (grayish cheek, back, flanks), appears to have a dark and slightly smaller beak. Western Tanager has yellow body, black wings with wing bars, noticeably smaller beak. Scarlet Tanager has a deep scarlet body and black wings. Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Grosbeak all have darker wings and tail plus beaks that are either short and stubby or thick and crossed at the tips. The last two also have wing bars.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

This bird sat for twenty minutes on a bare Russian olive twig, turning occasionally so that we eventually had several minutes good views of all of his body. Four times he took and ate Russian olive berries. Mostly he perched slightly fluffed (but not looking sick or distressed). Occasionally glanced quickly around for 3-5 seconds. Once he made flight intention movements, then flew 12-14 inches down to a lower branch. During this time we were talking, raising and lowering binoculars--the bird's behavior was not obviously affected. No other birds were near. When the sun got so low that the bird was in shade, we left. It was eating a berry as we walked away.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Approx. 200 yards from the Colo. River, separated by thick brush. A small dirt road runs along the North (river) side of three now-dry man made ponds. There is tamarisk, cottonwood, Russian olive, and other brushy types I do not know. In previous years the ponds have had water so migrants might expect it.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

The bird did not sing or give any call or sound during the observation.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number

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Signature

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

Have not seen Summer or Hepatic Tanagers. Familiar with local West. Tanager-size, shape, behaviour. Verm. Flycatcher seen last 5 springs in AZ--foraging, perching, courtship flight. N. Cardinal and Scarlet Tanager as a child in N. Carolina, Cardinal seen spring 1991, in AZ. Esther familiar with Scarlet Tanager in East.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Esther Keyser

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature