

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

COMMON NAME: Painted Redstart

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Myioborus pictus

DATE: 22 April 2001 TIME: 16:30

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 15 min during original observation; also 30 min on 25 April 2001.

NUMBER: 1 AGE: adult

SEX: ♂ (singing)

LOCATION: Temple of Sinawava, Zion Natl. Park, Washington Co., UT

LATILONG:

ELEVATION:

DISTANCE TO BIRD: as close as 8 m

WEATHER: 60°F, partly cloudy, 4-12 mph wind

LIGHT CONDITIONS: Shaded - afternoon in Zion Canyon - not direct sunlight, but not "low" light.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:

Clearly a wood warbler - similar size / shape, with similar bill structure, as other warblers it was foraging with (see Behavior, below). Behavioral characteristics (i.e. foraging style - see Behavior, below) also suggested similarity to redstarts (Setophaga, Myioborus).

Plumage pattern striking and unmistakable: jet black head, back, throat, and primary feathers, except for distinct white crescent below eye. Bright red belly. Wing coverts and outer rectrices immaculate white - showed very strong contrast with black and red body. White feathers also conspicuous because bird frequently fanned tail and flicked wings while foraging.

SONG OR CALL AND METHOD OF DELIVERY: Bird sang frequently (up to 5 times/min at 09:45, 25 April 2001). Sang from 7 m high perch in ash next to canyon wall.

Song a rich warble — unlike any other species that occurs in Utah.

BEHAVIOR: Actively foraging with mixed species flock (mostly warblers: Audubon's, Yellow, Virginia's, Black-thr. Gray) — foraging in classic Myioborus style: fanning tail; flashing white wing patches as it moved over bark surfaces, chasing flushed prey. Also foraged

HABITAT: in more typical warbler style: inspecting and gleaning prey from foliage.  
Riparian woodland

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED: Identification straightforward — no other species could be confused with this bird. Slate-throated Redstart (Myioborus miniatus), which has occurred in Arizona, does not have white wing coverts or white crescent below eye.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:

Extensive experience with this species in Arizona and Mexico, and with other Myioborus species (Slate-throated, Spectacled, Brown-capped) in Mexico, Ecuador, and Argentina.

REFERENCES CONSULTED: Sibley Guide to Birds

DESCRIPTION FROM: NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING  , NOTES MADE LATER \_\_\_\_\_  
FROM MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_

OBSERVER: Robert Dobbs

SIGNATURE: 

ADDRESS: 817 Brentwood Blvd

CITY: Lafayette

STATE: LA

ZIP: 70503

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

Rick Fridell,  
many other observers

DATE PREPARED: 20 December 2001

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO \_\_\_\_\_, DRAWING \_\_\_\_\_, TAPE \_\_\_\_\_, OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
P.O. BOX 1042  
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