

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Species: *Scarlet Tanager*

Date: Sept. 7, 1985

Number: one

Age: ?

Sex: male

Locality (exact address or other specific information to describe location, such as x miles north of x intersection):

ranch on east side of Promontory Peninsula, near Corinne

County: Box Elder

City: —

Elevation: ?

Time: mid-morning

Length of time observed: 15 seconds

Habitat: clump of trees, ranchyard 'oasis', surrounded by desert and Great Salt Lake

Distance to bird: $\approx$ 30 feet

Light conditions: good

Optical equipment: Zeiss 10x40B

Observer: Paul Lehman

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

none

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

Copied from field notes written day of sighting:

A typical tanager size, shape, and dusky bill; unmarked pale olive-green above; unmarked medium yellow below, paling slightly on belly; dark tail; wing appeared quite black, contrasting significantly with body and showing no wingbars except for very thin pale tips to greater coverts forming single faint, partial wingbar; probably gave a rather low, mono-syllabic 'check' or 'chup' call vaguely reminiscent of call of "Myrtle" Warbler and which I have heard other Scarlets give.

This is an early date for a fall vagrant Scarlet Tanager in the far West, most having occurred in October and early November (a few in mid/late September, 1 in late August).

Based on blackness of wings bird likely a male, but not certain of age.

* call came from area of bird at time I could not actually see it

Voice and/or call notes: See above

Behavior:

sitting and hopping in medium-sized trees; flew short distance out of view and could not be refound

Describe what specific feature(s) you saw and/or heard that caused you to come to your conclusions:

See above

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

Worn Western Tanager has reduced wingbars but typically shows gray 'saddle' to back (absent in this bird - uniform olive), wing not as black as in the bird and does not stand out on body as much, and ~~usually~~ does not give "Myrtle Warbler-like" call.

What experience have you had with this and similar species?

have seen many hundreds of Scarlets, a couple thousand (?) Westerns

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

Significance of record in the area and/or the state:

2nd (?) state record

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

Signature: Paul Schuman

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Date prepared:

12/25/85