

CFO-ORC FILE # 56-96-97

Accepted 7-10

29-12

29-13

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: PYRRHULOXIA (Vernacular Name) | CARDINALIS SINUATUS (Scientific Name)

Date(s): AUGUST 16, 1996

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: MALE Plumage: BREEDING

Locality: JOHNSON RESIDENCE, 4100 ROAD 60 Elevation: 9300'

Nearest town: GRANT County: \_\_\_\_\_

Time(s) observed: 9:45 → 10:05 AM

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 20 MINUTES

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

DUANE NELSON 1619 FORD ST, GOLDEN, CO (303) 277 9748

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

MANY

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

BRIGHT SUNLIGHT

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BINOCULARS 10 x 40

Distance, and how measured: 20 YDS ESTIMATED

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

BIRD FLEW INTO LOW SHRUBS AND THEN ONTO THE GROUND BELOW THE FEEDERS.  
IT ALSO SPENT SOME TIME IN A LARGE PONDEROSA PINE AWAY FROM THE FEEDERS.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

THE BIRD WAS SMALLER BOTH IN OVERALL LENGTH AND BULK THAN THE STELLER'S  
JAYS AND ROBINS THAT WERE PRESENT. ITS LONGER TAIL MADE ITS OVERALL  
LENGTH GREATER THAN THAT OF BLACK-HEADED & ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS.  
THE SIZE AND SHAPE WERE VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF A CARDINAL.

• Description (continued):

THE BIRD HAD STRIKING RED COLORATION DOWN THE WHOLE OF THE CENTRAL BREAST, AROUND THE FACE, TOTALLY INCLUDING THE DARK EYES, ON THE OUTER WINGS AND ON THE TAIL. THE LONG CREST WAS ALSO TIPPED RED. THE REST OF THE HEAD, NECK AND BACK WAS A LIGHT GREY. MUCH OF THE WINGS (ESPECIALLY INNER FEATHERS) WERE BROWNISH. THE BILL WAS BRIGHT YELLOW, QUITE LARGE, BUT STUBBIER THAN CARDINAL OR OTHER GROSBEAKS BECAUSE THE UPPER MANDIBLE CURVED OVER THE LOWER MANDIBLE. THE FLANKS WERE A LIGHT GREY AND THE LEGS WERE DARK.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

THE BIRD GAVE ITS CHINK CALL SEVERAL TIMES, MOSTLY WHEN PERCHED, ALTHOUGH WE HEARD THIS CALL AS IT PERCHED IN VIEW FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

AROUND FEEDERS AND OPEN AREA AROUND HOUSE, ALTHOUGH WE OBSERVED IT IN A PANDORSA PINE !! NEAR THE HOUSE FOR SOME OF THE TIME.  
How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

CARDINAL BY OVERALL COLOR PATTERN, BILL SHAPE AND COLOR.

GROSBEAKS BY OVERALL SHAPE, COLOR PATTERN, BILL SHAPE ETC.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

HAVE SEEN THIS SPECIES IN SE ARIZONA, S. NEW MEXICO AND S. TEXAS ON SEVERAL TRIPS TO THESE AREAS WHERE THIS SPECIES IS COMMON. HAVE SEEN CARDINAL REGULARLY IN E. COLORADO AND ELSEWHERE. VERY FAMILIAR WITH ALL COLORADO GROSBEAKS.  
List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: NONE

b) after observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GUIDE

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation      from memory       
Date and time report was written: AUGUST 18, 1996 AT 10 AM

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Pete R. Gent

Address: 55 S 35th ST, BOULDER, CO 80503.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:  
Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205

UMENTATION --  
ARE BIRD SIGHTING

56-96-97

AMERICAN BIRDS

Species: PYRRHULOXIA  
(Vernacular name)

Cardinalis sinuatus  
(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): 12 August 1996 Time Bird Seen: 0915 to 0930  
0945

Locality: 4100 Park Co. rd. 60 in Hall Valley approx. 4 mi. northwest of Webster (off  
US-285 in Park Co.), Colorado (Summer home of Jim & Helen Johnson)  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Bushnell 10 x 40 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Enclosed photo was taken by Jim  
Johnson in July (?) 1996

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male Plumage: adult

Light conditions: bright sunlight, feeder in light shade.

Distance from bird, and how measured: as close as 40 ft. at feeder

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird was observed as it came to a tube feeder filled with sunflower seeds. It appeared shy and did not stay at the feeder for long (a Few seconds) before flying to a nearby pine tree. It apparently never left the immediate area of the Johnson's yard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Open pine forest at approx 9,600 ft. elevation

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Norm Erthal, 7761 Everett Way, Arvada 80005

Bob Spencer, 4430 Gladiola St., Golden 80401

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.

Bird was slightly smaller than a Steller's Jay; estimate it to have been about 9 inches long and slender. Bird was a beautiful combination of gray and red with a bright yellow, thick, parrot-like bill. Head, back, and flanks were gray. The slender but prominent crest, the wings, and the tail were a dark red. There was a bright red mask on the face that ran behind the black eye and down the chin. The red color continued down the center of the breast in an ill-defined broad line.

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:

Cardinal is only possible similar species. Male cardinal is all red with a black mask and chin. Female cardinal is buffy brown with red in crest, wings and tail. Both sexes have a reddish bill, not the bright yellow bill of the male Pyrrhuloxia. Only the male Pyrrhuloxia has the red line down the center of the breast.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have seen Pyrrhuloxias in Arizona, Texas, and a female in Colorado (12/89).  
Have seen hundreds of cardinals throughout the eastern and southwestern U.S.  
including several males and females in Colorado.

This report was written from notes made during x after x observation; from memory     

NAME (print): Dick Schottler

Mailing address: 25 S. Indiana Pl., Golden, CO 80401

Signature: Dick Schottler 8/12/96

Return to:

Wash. St. Highway  
260 Milwaukee Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206