

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: phainopeplaphainopepla nitens

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): September 24, 25, & 26, 1978Number of birds seen: one Sex: female Plumage: adultLocality: 3 miles from town RuralElevation: 6500'Nearest town: Durango, ColoradoCounty: La PlataTime(s) observed: 6:00 PM on 24th & 7:00 AM til 6:15PM 25 & 26 various timesDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) periods of 1 min up to 6 min at a time
Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): time

my husband R.G. Whiteman on the first day

Elva Fox 53 Rio Vista Cr Durango 247-5890 - Robin Elliot 216 Halto Via Cr
Rita Mansfield 3112 E 4th av 259-1324 - M. Ellis 81 Folsom Pl. 259-160

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

Kip Stransky 101 W. 31 247-8138 - Jim & Gloria Childress 7125 C R 203 -
Ms. Pixler 465 San Juan Dr 247-2023-L. Vogel 3333 N E Cr 247-0205Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
From dusk to rain 1st day: sunshine & rain, flying eating and bathing 2nd dayOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): binoculars 7x35 Tasco & othersDistance, and how measured: 10' on up to 300' estimatedIf photographed, type of equipment and film: Sears 300 MM & 300 mm lensWho else photographed the bird? Elva Fox - The only one

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

Short fluttering from limb to limb, and catching bugs, short one-note cry

feeding on Russian olives

long dark gray tail, thin pompadour crest, gray plumage, with short beak and orange colored eyes.

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 observed in the field:

little smaller than a Townsend Solitaire, darker, longer tail, crest was thin and stood up; slender body with a short bill and orange eyes. She was a slate-gray with slight hint of wing bars. She wasn't spooked easily by my moving around and, in fact, flew towards me several times. I heard her call three times - one short, rather high, note. She fed on olives and pyracantha berries then caught bugs awhile and perched on the top of the trees. She was with

Steller Jays & is so much smaller than they are that it

caught my attention. I grabbed my glasses & studied it

The long tail & its thin crest intrigued me. I got closer, about 30' from it, it flew from the tree tops down toward me, gave a short little one-note call

A it lit on a wire about 12' above my head - Then

(OVER)

Description, (continued)

down to a irrigation ditch 20' away. I called my husband & we watched it fly on until dark. The next day I called Elva. She brought 3 other lab members out & we watched it for about 1 hour. I stayed around the area that day & the next. After a strong wind during the night, I didn't see the next day. OR since

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

As it flew from tree to a low wire toward me it gave the short whistled call as it lit.

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

In a Mission Olive Tree Grove in power lines catching bugs eating the berries. + irrigation ditch running thru field.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

long bill + color, + shape of its crest

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

I had seen this species in 1976 near Tucson, AZ, with male + female.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification: PETERSON'S WESTERN BIRDS

1) at time of observation:

PETERSON'S WESTERN BIRDS FIELD GUIDE BOOK

2) after observation:

A WESTERN BIRD SONGS - RECORDINGS

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC - SONG BIRDS IN THE GARDEN

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

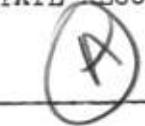
Date and time report was written: Sept. 24th + 26th 1998

Reporting observer: Flo Whiteman Signature: Florence Whiteman

Address: 1558 C.R. 250 Durango Colo 81301

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, COLORADO 80205

Species: Phainopepla 4 
(Vernacular Name)Phainopepla nitens
(Scientific Name-use binomial)Date(s): Sept 25 + 26, 1978 Time Bird Seen: 10 AM to 11:15 AM
Locality: Animas Valley, East
Nearest Town: Durango, Colo County: La Plata

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME ADDRESS TELEPHONE

Florence Whiteman - 1558 County Rd 250 Durango, Colo 81301 747-1151

Rita Mansfield - 3112 E. 4th ave - Durango, Colo 81301 259-1324

Michael Ellis 81 Folsom Place - Durango, Colo. 81301 247-3578

Optical Equipment: 35 mm Sears SIR Camera - 200 ASA film 7X35 Bausch + Lomb PinnacleIf photographed, type of equipment used: 300 mm lensLight Conditions: goodDistance from bird (how measured): 50 - 75 ft - too far! guessNumber of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: female or young Plumage: gray - Light wing barsDescribe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: flycatcher habits. Flying in air to catch insects. - Coming back to same perch. Eating berries.Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Size: about like the waxwings. - Longer tail - gray plumage with lighter gray wing bars - the crest was the same gray as most of the rest of its plumage. Tail slightly darker. Bill somewhat like a Swallow, but longer. The gray crest and red eye and light wing bars were the best identifying marks.

Kip Stransky also observed this bird.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: Near an irrigating ditch by a farm home, where there were Russian olive trees, other fruit trees, grape vines, pyracantha bushes etc.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated? Since this bird had a crest, it was easy to eliminate most species. The crest was gray so that eliminated more. Then the size was too large for the titmouse. Also this bird had pale wing bars and Red eyes. There are very few birds with red eyes and they have no crests.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have seen the Phainopepla around Phoenix, Arizona a number of times.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

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

PRINT NAME: Elva Fox SIGNATURE: Elva Fox DATE: Oct 12 1978
Street Address: 53 Rio Vista Cir Town and State: Durango, Colo ZIP: 81301

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110