

1998-111

ACCEPTED (7-0)

Phainopepla (Phainopepla nitens)

June 3, 1998

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recd 6-15-98

518 A Street Penrose, Colorado (Fremont County)

One male seen for approximately 2 minutes. First seen on edge of fish pond/birdbath sitting on flagstone. When I first noticed it, I realized immediately that it was smaller than the Redwing Blackbirds which visit here all year (it was facing away from me). Then it turned slightly to the east, and I saw the crest. I grabbed binoculars, and watched it fly up to the juniper snag at the feeder area, which is when I saw its white outer wing patches. I watched it for a few more seconds, then I turned to get my camera - unfortunately it had disappeared by then -never seen again. Other field marks: tail longish, bird all black except for white wing patches. I must confess that due to my excitement at the sighting and the relatively brief time of the visit, I neglected to look for the red eyes.

I am familiar with all the blackbirds of this area, and usually see Phainopeplas in Arizona every year when we visit family there. We also had a young or female Phainopepla here at this location about 9 years ago, which stayed around for a few days.

Submitted from notes taken at time of sightings, July 5, 1998

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