

RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION Records of Vermont Birds

The following form has been prepared to encourage full documentation, when requested, of rare or unseasonal birds in the state of Vermont. These reports are put into a permanent file and should be as detailed as possible. New reports are reviewed annually by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which evaluates records for their acceptability to future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list.

Please print or type

SPECIES: Summer Tanager

NUMBER OBSERVED: One

OBSERVER MAKING REPORT: OTHER OBSERVERS (and addresses if available)
Karen Deets, Bill Deets

LOCATION: 728 Moscow Rd. West Castleton, Rutland County

DATE: May 4, 2014

TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: All day, 8am to 6pm

DISTANCES FROM BIRD: Maximum: 50' Minimum: 4'

WEATHER: Cloudy with showers

wind direction: **SE** wind speed: **5 to 10 mph**

sky cover: **cloudy** light in relation to observer's position: **overcast daylight** temperature: **40's to 50's**

The bird was here all day May 4 through May 6.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Camera, Sony Cyber-shot, 12.1 megapixels

OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:
None. I had once seen a Scarlet Tanager from a distance high in the top of a tree on our property.

OTHER DOCUMENTATION: Photo :**X** Tape Recording _____ Specimen _____

If yes to the above, where is this information deposited? **Photos attached**

HABITAT: (be as detailed as possible, include associated bird species)
Open area surrounded heavily with woods, on our property, close to our house.

BIRD'S BEHAVIOR: (feeding actions, manner of flight, displays or interactions, reaction to observer)
The bird enjoyed our feeders and ate niger seed, black oil sunflower seed, and suet. It was not shy and did not fly away when we observed it from a short distance inside from our window or outside. It was socially accepted by the other wild birds at the feeders including goldfinch, chickadees, rosy breasted grosbeaks and purple finches.

VOCALIZATION: (song or calls)
None observed

DESCRIPTION: (Describe what you actually saw during the observation. We hope that observers will take field notes during the observation and before consulting field guides, etc. Additional pages with sketches and copies of field notes are encouraged.)

Relative size and shape: 6 " long, plump body

Head (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape): All red

Feet and Bill (shape, color, length): Light gray rather heavy bill, light gray delicate feet

Upper back: All red

Lower back and rump: All red

Wings (shape, length, markings): All red with some gray streaks near tips

Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts: All red

Tail (shape, length, markings): All red, slightly forked

IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?

I initially thought it was a Scarlet Tanager until I looked it up and saw that it did not have the black wings or black tail. Its body shape was rounder as well.

COMMENTS: (was age or sex determined?, etc.) Male, based on all red color.

This report was written from notes taken during _____ immediately after the observation, or written from memory _____ (please attach copies of notes if available)

NAME Karen Deets SIGNATURE (not req'd) _____

MAILING ADDRESS 728 Moscow Rd. Fair Haven, VT 05743

DATE May 6, 2014

Return electronically (preferred) to: vbrc@vtcostudies.org or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055



