

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net>

1. English and Scientific names: Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One in female-type plumage
3. Parish: Jefferson
Specific Locality: Cemetery Lane, Grand Isle Cemetery
4. Date(s) when observed: 17 October 2023

5. Time(s) of day when observed: morning, from about 7:10 to 8:00

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Conover
City:
State:

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): David Muth, who found it the day before, and the birders with him.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Morning light, good for viewing at the right angles.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex 12s, Nikon D3500 with a 200 mm lens

11. Distance to bird(s): 15-20 yards at minimum

12. Duration of observation: 50 minutes of off and on sightings.

13. Habitat: Live-oak dominated barrier island forest patches with dense understory

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird was very visible, sitting on high perches in the sun, but it also flew around a lot on either side

of Cemetery Lane. I could find it by sound, as it was loud enough for me to hear, but I first saw it because it was actively foraging before most birds were moving.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

Tanager with yellowish overall color, dusky lores, some gray in auriculars. Orange-red tint to parts of face, dusky bill.

Overall somewhat similar to Summer Tanager, but perhaps more yellow below. Upperparts with grayer or greener tint due to dark centers/yellow edging to wing feathering. Head with paler eye crescents broadly divided by diffuse dusky eyeline/loral area. Auriculars with dusky wash—not as gray as on many Hepatics. Vivid orange wash to parts of chin, throat, and forecrown. Bill somewhat large, toothed, dusky. Eye dark brown, legs grayish or darker.

16. Voice: Vocal; I recorded some calls. To my ear sounded like a good match for Hepatic calls.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Summer Tanager with different facial pattern. Western Tanager has wingbars. Scarlet has different bill shape, color, different breast and wing color. Vocals also different.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos and audio recordings.

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen many times over the years, as recently as this summer in Arizona and Costa Rica.

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes. Visually and vocally, seems spot on for Hepatic.

23. Date: 14 November 2023

































