

Records of the Crimson-collared Grosbeak (*Rhodothraupis celaeno*) from Texas

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Rhodothraupis, a monotypic genus endemic to the dry tropical forest of northeastern México, occurs from central Veracruz to southern Nuevo León along the east slope of the Sierra Madre Oriental (Miller et al. 1957). Here, we report the first documented observation of *Rhodothraupis celaeno* in the United States, along with two other sight records.

On 28 June 1974, Bob and Sirpa Harms discovered a male Crimson-collared Grosbeak in Bentsen State Park, Hidalgo County, Texas. They taped the bird's song and observed its territorial response to a playback of the tape. At 0700 on 30 June, the authors, using a copy of the Harms' tape, relocated the bird along a slough of the Rio Grande where standing water promoted growth of taller trees and much denser undergrowth than the surrounding mesquite brushland. We observed the bird for several hours as it sang from exposed dead limbs and treetops. It behaved territorially, responding to the tape with approach and vigorous singing. It chased nearby Bronzed Cowbirds (*Molothrus aeneus*) and Couch's Kingbirds (*Tyrannus couchii*). While singing, the grosbeak frequently erected the feathers of its crown, which gave it a crested appearance and a Cardinal-like silhouette. We obtained photographs and further recordings. Photographs are on file at Texas A&M University, Texas Photo Record File #244; tapes are deposited in the Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (#23600). At about 0945, the bird left its singing perch and did not reappear. A brief sighting on 1 July by John Arvin constitutes the last observation of the bird of which we are aware.

Further sightings of this species in Texas occurred on 25 December 1974, when John and Gladys Donahue observed a male at La Joya, Hidalgo County, about 8 km northeast of the site of the above record (Webster 1975), and on 13 July 1975, when Steven and Mrs. Sydney Benn observed a female in their

yard in Brownsville, Cameron County (pers. comm.). The Benn's yard has luxuriant native vegetation and has attracted such other rarities as the Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*).

Several facts combine to make it unlikely that these records of *Rhodothraupis* represent escaped cage birds: (1) all three records occurred in habitat similar to the preferred natural habitat of the species in México; (2) the required dispersal distance from the nearest known natural population is less than 200 km (Kincaid 1951); (3) all three records occurred in a 1-yr period, suggesting that some temporary environmental condition may have caused dispersal in the species; (4) the species is rare in captivity (an informal survey of Texas birdwatchers who travel regularly in México revealed that only one of 13 persons had ever seen a caged Crimson-collared Grosbeak); and (5) although we observed the Bentsen State Park bird quite closely, we could see no unusual feather wear. These facts together make a strong case that the Texas records of *Rhodothraupis* represent natural dispersal in the species.

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Ani Male Apparently Killed by Other Anis while Attempting to Parasitize Nest

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On 11 April 1981 I collected a dead male Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) under the nest tree of an ani group on Virginia Key, Dade County, Florida. The color-banded male was apparently killed by a

puncture wound in the right temporal fossa of the skull. The nature of the fatal wound, the location of the body, and observations made before this finding strongly suggest that the bird was killed by other