

## Colorado Field Ornithologists - Sight Record Form

ACCEPT

RD#1 5-2  
RECIRC 5-2

MEETING 4-1

Species: Alder Flycatcher. Scientific Name: Empidonax virensens.

Date: June 4, 1995.

Number of birds seen: 1. Sex: unknown. Plumage: adult breeding.

Locality: Rocky Ford SWA.

Nearest town: Rocky Ford. County: Otero.

Times Observed: 9:00-9:05 AM.

Duration of Observation: 5 minutes.

Other observers with me: none.

Other observers who saw the bird independently: none that I know of.

Light conditions: excellent.

Optical equipment used: 10x40 Bausch &amp; Lomb Binoculars.

Distance from bird: 15 feet.

Describe the bird's behavior: The bird was observed perched in a russian olive tree above water calling.

Describe the bird: The size was about 5 inches. The overall shape was typical flycatcher shape. The plumage was an adult in breeding plumage. The color pattern is as follows: the bill was dark on the upper mandible and orange on the lower mandible. The head was darkish green. The face was also darkish green. The bird had a slight whiteish eyering around both eyes. The eyes were dark. The back was green not brown. The wings were brownish with two yellowish wing bars on both wings. The tail was also brownish. The chin was white. The throat and throat were white. The breast was brownish yellow. The belly was yellow. The undertail coverts were yellow. The sides and flanks were yellow. The legs and feet were dark. The shape of the bill was thin and short like other "empids". The shape of the wings and tail were typical flycatcher shape. I identified the bird by it's flycatcher shape and size, also by the greenish back, not brown like Willow, and by the bird's call "peep". Also the bird was in a wet area, which they like.

Describe the bird's song or call: The bird liked to call. It called maybe 20 times in 5 minutes until it flew and I could not refind it. The call was a loud "peep". I saw and heard a Willow Flycatcher about 5 minutes before I saw this Alder Flycatcher. The Willow's call was "wit" and it sang it's typical song "fitz-bew".

Describe the habitat: I found the bird in russian olive trees, just above a small pool of standing water surrounded by trees. This very wet area had lots of misquitos which flycatchers like. The bird was at the Rocky Ford SWA near the Arkansas River in Southeastern Colorado.

How did you eliminate similar species:

Willow Flycatcher: This species has a brown back, no eye ring, whiteish wing bars, a "wit" call not "peep".

Other empidonax flycatchers: The others do not look like the Willow/Alder type bird, the others have bigger eyerings and do not have a call like Alder.

What is your prior experience with this species and other similar species:

Alder Flycatcher: I have seen at least ten in the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota in June of 1994, I have also heard them sing and call in North Dakota.

Willow Flycatcher: I have seen many of this species in Colorado, including one 5 minutes before the sighting of this Alder Flycatcher on 6/4/95.

I have seen most other "empids" including: Gray, Dusky, Hammond's, Least, Cordilleran, Pacific Slope, and Buff-breasted Flycatchers. I have not seen Acadian or Yellow-bellied Flycatchers.

List Books if helped with the identification: National Geographic Society's Bird's of North America.

This report was made with notes taken during the sighting.

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival. Signature: *Brandon K. Percival*

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