

34-82-14

Species: EASTERN WOOD PEWEE
(Vernacular name)Contopus virens
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): MAY 12, 1982 Time Bird Seen: 3:15 pm to 3:30 pmLocality: LAKE HENRY (WEST END OF LAKE) 5m NE of
ORDWAY, CROWLEY CO, ILLINOIS
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 7x35 Bushnell Binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unk. Plumage: Adult / SpringLight conditions: Sunny - Bird in direct sun - sun at my backDistance from bird, and how measured: 20 to 30 ft (estimated)

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

The pewee was "flycatching" insects, sitting on (open areas of)
dead snags on willows & young cottonwoods

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Willow & young cottonwood thicket on lake shore

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

None /

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

The pewee was about the size of an "Audubon's" warbler (of which it was near)

Head: plain, grayish (color of west. wood pewee but not as dark), no eyelines or eye rings; slight, rounded crest on crown. Nape: plain, same color as head. Back: plain, same color as nape & head. Upper tail coverts & rump: same plain & color as back, ~~nape~~ nape, etc. Tail: slightly darker than back, etc. slightly forked. Throat: lighter gray than head, plain. Breast: same as throat (plain & color). Sides: slightly darker gray but no distinct contrast (vest like look) with breast. Under tail covert: same color as breast & throat, plain. Legs - dark. Eye - dark. bill - upper mandible dark, lower mandible yellowish (straw colored). Wing - same color as back, nape, etc. with very faint (but clear) wing-bars (lighter in color) wings seemed to extend to about $\frac{1}{2}$ way down the tail.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: Typical song - Pee-o-wee called from cloud sang about 10 times. Also, it gave a shorter pee-oo call. This short call is what attracted me to the bird. It snapped its bill when chasing insects.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

West. wood pewee. Darker colored, breast contrasts with sides & to give it a vest like look, single colored (not ~~some~~) immatures, song different.

Empidonax flycatcher: all have springs, calls different.

Olive-sided flycatcher: vest-like (breast & sides) look, white near rump (off white or light gray), call different.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

In 1951, I saw E.W. pewee's every day from May 1 - June 25 in Ohio.

I have seen many west. wood pewees throughout the west. U.S.

I have seen all of the Empidonax flycatchers several times (some many times in the hand).

Olive-sided flycatcher. I've seen many times in Colo & Ariz.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after X observation; from memory _____.

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Signature: Van A. Truan

6/9/82

Return to:

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