

APPENDIX II

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34-83-35

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Eastern Wood Pewee ; Contopus Virens
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name) (Possible lat/long record)
or Eastern Pewee (depending on the year)

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.

Dates (s): 5/24/83 Time Bird Seen: 8:35 AM to 8:45 A.M.

Locality: Hanna Wildlife Area
Fountain, El Paso, CO
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 9x30 Nikon binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂(?) ^{assumed it was singing} ~~since it was singing~~ Plumage: Adult (Breeding, I assume)

Light conditions: good, sun off right shoulder and still low

Distance from bird, and how measured: 50-70 feet - conservative estimate

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Singing from exposed perch 5-10 feet off ground
Flycatching at lower elevation in understory and up to 25', did not return to same perch

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian, very close to small irrigation stream, (a branch from Fountain Ck)

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

Jim Watts, Penrose, CO

APPENDIX II Continued

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 most notable characteristics of this bird were (1) its pale breast, belly and flanks with an overall greenish cast to its underparts (2) its back appeared olive green mixed with brown (3) 2 wingbars were evident (4) To me the bird appeared slightly smaller than a Western Wood Pewee, perhaps because it was so much lighter (5) Unfortunately I failed to look for the mandible color expected to notice if the lower mandible was yellow. (6) There was no noticeable eyering (7) The head was crested as in Wood Pewee (8) I didn't observe any tail or wing flicking or movement

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Bird sang from perch, exposed and about 10 feet off of ground

The song said its name, Pewee, 3 syllables, the first up, the second slurred down the third back up and longer duration. The 2nd note in the full song was not heard. The full song was not heard infrequently.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Western Wood Pewee - There were 2 W. Wood Pewees nearby singing. I had a good comparison both in song & in appearance. *

Eastern Phoebe - I.M. - my bird did ~~not~~ look like an immature Eastern Phoebe except (at home) that my bird had more of a crested head. I also played the recording of the E. Phoebe and my bird did not look like it. I did not hear it.

Prior experience with this and similar species: it was not the song that I heard.

E. W. Pewee - I lived for 30 years in Ohio where this bird was frequently heard although sight I.D. was limited.

W. W. Pewee - I saw and heard this bird frequently May 7-20 while birding in S.E. Arizona & here in Colo.

E. Phoebe - I lived for 2 winters in S. Florida where the bird was frequently seen. (my job put me in the field)

This report was written from notes made during after observation; each day & part of it included maintaining field sketches from the memory established by agreement with I. Pearce.

Name (print) : William R. Maynard

Mailing address: 372 Blue Wren Ln. Colo. Spr. CO 80906

Signature: William R. Maynard

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

* The W. Woodpeckers ~~with~~ were darker birds both on the flanks and browner on the back. Their song was familiar to me since I had just returned from 2 week of birding in S.E. Arizona