

APPENDIX II

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

A

Species: Eastern Wood-Peewee ; Contopus virens
(Vernacular name) (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.

Dates (s): 18 Aug 1990 Time Bird Seen: ~13:30 to ~13:45Locality: Jumbo Res.
Crook, Colo.
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocularsIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —Number of birds seen: one Sex: — Plumage: adultLight conditions: Good light; partly cloudy; but in transpluvous sun.Distance from bird, and how measured: Estimated 30'-100'

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird was in grove of small elms in picnic area. Often near trunk, but also out in foliage on occ. Sang from perches for about 5 minutes then was silent. Fly catching in interin.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Elm grove along picnic area near plains reservoir.

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

APPENDIX 11 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.

Smallest flycatcher about 6" long with long tail. Dark olive greenish-gray upperparts. Dark wing with 2 grayish wing-bars. Underside pale yellow with darker vested front. Lower mandible ~~was~~ yellow-orange; upper mandible dark.

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

Clear, high "pee-wr-ee" call ("song") given about 12 times in 5 minutes. Also occasional "pee-wr" call without 3rd component note. Never gave any dry "peer" calls, or chattering notes.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

upright posture, long tail and lack of tail-wagging and eye-rings eliminate Empidonax spp.
Western Wood-Pewee has different song, dark lower bill and browner (rather than greenish) plumage.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen many Eastern Wood-Pewees and heard the song in Wisconsin, including in 1989

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☐ observation;
from memory ☐.

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Return Form To:

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