

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE | CONTOPUS VIRENS  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): SUNDAY MAY 29th 1988Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: BREEDINGLocality: WEST END OF CIMMARON RIVER JUST NORTH OF OKLAHOMA Elevation: 4000'?Nearest town: CAMPO County: BACATime(s) observed: 9-9:30 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 30 MINUTES

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

VILZERBI, BILL PRATHER, MARK JAWOS, DAVE LEATHERMAN

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

SUNNY, GOOD LIGHTOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BINOCULARS 10x40Distance, and how measured: 5 YARDS ESTIMATED

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? PHOTOGRAPHED BY DAVE LEATHERMAN

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

MOSTLY SITTING IN WILLOW TREE, WITH OCCASIONAL SHORT FLIGHTS TO OTHER  
PARTS OF THE TREE EITHER WHEN DISTURBED BY PEOPLE OR TO CATCH FLIES.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

THIS BIRD WAS A SMALLISH FLYCATCHER, WITH GENERALLY DARK BROWN/GRAY  
UPPER BODY AND TAIL (TOO DARK FOR EMPLOYNAX) WITH DISTINCT LIGHTER WING  
BAR. THERE WAS NO DISCERNABLE EYE-RING. THESE FEATURES NARROWED DOWN

Description (continued):

THE IDENTIFICATION TO A WOOD-PEWEE. I THEN LOOKED AT THE FRONT OF THE BIRD. IT WAS ALL LIGHT FROM THROAT ~~TO~~ TO UNDER TAIL COVERTS EXCEPT FOR A SMALLISH BROWN PATCHES ON THE BREAST FLANKS. THE BREAST WAS LIGHTER AND THE BROWN PATCHES MUCH SMALLER THAN SHOWN IN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GUIDE. WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE'S CLOSE BY WERE, IF ANYTHING, DARKER THAN THE NAT GEOG ILLUSTRATION. CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THE BILL (AT 5 YARDS) SHOWED THAT THE LOWER MANDIBLE WAS ENTIRELY ORANGE - IN WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE, THE LOWER MANDIBLE IS ONLY PARTIALLY ORANGE. Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

NONE GIVEN

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

WILLOW TREE IN RIPARIAN DRY CIMAARON RIVER

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE - VERY LIGHT BREAST, LOWER MANDIBLE ALL ORANGE.

GREATER PEWEE - MUCH SMALLER SIZE, VERY LIGHT BREAST.

OLIVE SIDED FLYCATCHER - MUCH SMALLER SIZE, NO WHITE TUFTS.

EMPIDONAXS. - NO EYE RING, OVERALL BACK COLOR MUCH DARKER.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

SEEN THIS SPECIES SEVERAL TIMES IN EAST U.S.

SEEN GREATER PEWEE SEVERAL TIMES IN ARIZONA.

EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WITH W. WOOD-PEWEE, OLIVE SIDED FLYCATCHER AND WESTERN EMPIDONAXS.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GUIDE

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation X from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time report was written: 6/19/88

Reporting observer: PETER GENT Signature: Peter Gent

Address: 55 S 35th, BOULDER CO 80303

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205



## APPENDIX II

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

Species: Eastern Wood-Pewee ; 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): 29 May 1988 Time Bird Seen: 9:00 a.m. to for about 1 hr.

Locality: west end of Cimarron R.,  
~ 1/2 mile n. of Okla. border in Baca Co.  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: ad. breeding

Light conditions: Excellent, bright sun.

Distance from bird, and how measured: As close as 20 ft., estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Stayed in a single dense willow during most of observation, usually in shade towards center or interior of tree, often low to ground (within 4-6' high). Rarely perched in open & never out on exposed branch. Fed with very short fluttery forays.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian area along ~~dry~~ dry river bed; in willow.

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

Peter Gent, Vic Zerbi, David Leatherman, and others.

→ Observed in shade with short sallies. Had upright posture when perched; did not pump or wag tail or flick wings.



# APPENDIX 1I 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. Med.: small flycatcher, about 6" long. Longish wings and tail with medium primary extension on folded wing. Head dark sooty olive. No trace of an eyering. Eye black. Back medium dull olive with no brown tones. W. Dusky than back with 2 prominent whitish wingbars of equal intensity. Tail dark olive gray. Chin & throat white. Chest white. Breast white with an even area of dusky olive ~~vertical~~ streaks on side. The breast has no clear nested appearance. Flanks unstreaked as breast streaking does not extend to that area. Flanks dull white. Belly and undertail clear pale. Bill short and broad. Upper mandible dark. Lower mandible bright orange from base to tip (as seen from side) & entirely this color from underneath except for 1 mm. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Brief mellow call notes heard once when bird was disturbed. Sound "un-Western Wood-Pewee-like" tone.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Was Wood-Pewee from medium size, slender appearance, upright posture, lack of tail and wing flicking and 2 wingbars.  
West-Wood Pewee: 1) Has brown, not green superparts 2) Has clearly nested appearance, not just dark sides of breast 3) Has all dark, or extensively dark tip to lower mandible, not a nearly all yellow lower mandible. 4) Usually feeds from prominent branch tips, not quietly in interior of tree.  
Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen E.W-Pewee many times in Wisconsin & elsewhere and  
I've seen many W.W-Pewees.

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

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 1 CACTUS DR. LA JUNTA, CO 81050

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

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