

ACCEPTED (7-0)  
VIDEO

rec'd 9-5-98

## 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): JULY 31st 1998, AUGUST 2nd, 1998Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: BREEDINGLocality: SAWHILL PONDS Elevation: 5200'Nearest town: BOULDER County: BOULDERTime(s) observed: 8:15 - 8:45 amDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 20 MINS

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

None

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

Found by BILL TWEIT OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON.

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

OVERCAST

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10x40 BINOCULARSDistance, and how measured: 10 YDS ESTIMATED

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

Who else photographed the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

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

THE BIRD WAS PERCHING ON EXPOSED SNAGS, CATCHING INSECTS AND  
RETURNING TO ITS PERCH. I FINALLY SAW IT AT EYE LEVEL PERCHED ONA SNAG WITH TREES FOR BACKGROUND, RATHER THAN THE OVERCAST SKY.  
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:

SMALL, DARK FLYCATCHER WITH DARK TAIL, TWO DISTINCT WING BARS

AND NO EYE-RING. WITHOUT THE SONG, I WOULD HAVE PASSED THIS

BIRD OFF AS A WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE. HOWEVER, I HAD TALKED TO

Description (continued):

BILL TWEIT, WHO SUGGESTED I LOOK FOR TWO FEATURES. I OBSERVED THAT THE LOWER MANDIBLE WAS ENTIRELY ORANGE, THE BIRD'S BREAST WAS LIGHTER THAN THE USUAL DARK, VESTED APPEARANCE OF A WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE. THESE FEATURES WERE SEEN WITH A DARK BACKGROUND. HOWEVER, I BASE THE IDENTIFICATION MAINLY ON THE BIRD'S SONG.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

THE BIRD SANG REPEATEDLY DURING THE 30 MINS. IT SANG 2 OR 3 PEE-A-WEE SONGS AND THEN THE PEE-YER SONG. IT IS DISTINCTIVE FROM WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE, WHICH I HEARD TWICE WALKING TO THE LOCATION. Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

SMALL GROVE OF COTTONWOODS AND SMALLER TREES.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

ELIMINATED WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE MAINLY BY SONG, BUT ALSO BY ENTIRELY ORANGE LOWER MANDIBLE. ~~EMPIDONAX~~ FLYCATCHERS BY OVERALL BROWN COLOR, LACK OF EYE RING, SONG ETC. What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

SEEN EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE ONCE BEFORE IN COLORADO, NUMEROUS TIMES IN STATES FARTHER EAST.

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

a) at time of observation: NONE

b) after observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation X from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time report was written: SATURDAY AUGUST 1st, 1998

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 S 35th ST, 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



1998-89

Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Sawhill Ponds, Boulder Co., CO.  
30-31 July 1998

VIDEOTAPE

✓ rec'd 8-20-98

I was birding and swatting mosquitos at the west end of the Sawhill Ponds area on the morning of the 30th, when I heard what I thought could be an Eastern Wood-Pewee calling from a nearby patch of cottonwoods. As I worked my way towards it, it continued to call constantly, making it very easy to locate. I found it perched on dead branches at the edge of the small grove of cottonwoods, and watched as it flew into the grove. I relocated it in the grove, and took further notes. Observation conditions were excellent, other than the continuous distraction of mosquitoes attacking my lack of repellent. The morning was calm, clear and warm, and I was able to approach within 30m of the bird on several occasions. I used B&L Elite 10x42 binoculars. I took the following details as I watched the bird from 0835 to 0900, and did not examine any books until later that day.

Heard a clear, whistled call given repeatedly. Pattern was several three syllable calls, followed by a single two syllable call. Three syllable call was : Pee-u-wee with the second syllable descending slightly and the third ascending sharply. The two syllable call was: Pee-u, with the second descending fairly strongly. Bird called 5-7/minute, essentially continuous for the 25 minutes I observed it. It never uttered any other notes while I observed it. Perches with an upright posture on exposed limbs in the cottonwood grove, and sallies frequently after insects. Not observed to interact with any other birds. Has a broad based beak. Color of the lower mandible is orange, with a small dark tip. Lower mandible can be seen best from directly underneath when the bird opened its beak to sing, side views do not present color as well. Underpart coloration consists of off-white throat, grayish wash on sides of breast and onto flanks blending into whitish center of breast, whitish center grades into yellowish wash on most of belly, grading into dingy whitish undertail coverts. Upperparts are primarily brownish-green, with no eye ring, fairly bright wing bars and duller edging on tertials, wings and tail are darker than rest, back and nape have a more greenish cast than rump. Dark eye. Head shows a bushy appearance on the rear crown. Legs dark. Body size and shape are consistent with wood-pewee, but no direct comparisons with any other birds.

Returned the following morning (31 July) with a Canon camcorder and got video tapes of the bird. It was singing consistently from 0700-0715 in the same cottonwood grove. Video tapes are submitted with this report.



Bill Tweit  
Rarity Description