

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

34-89-30

Species: Scissor-tail Flycatcher
(Vernacular name)

Tyrannus forficatus
(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): 6/19/89

Time Bird Seen: Mid morning - 9 or 10 AM? to _____

Locality: Monte Vista NWR

Alamosa

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 8x40 hasty binocular; 20x Kowa scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Immature or female

Light conditions: Sunny, some heat haze - sun behind us

Distance from bird, and how measured: 1-200 ft. - estimate

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Fly catching from perches on top of the bushes - occasionally going down to ground or bases of bushes

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Open area with some brushy spots & low vegetation and areas of bare ground

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

Bob Coulon - 6794 Bowerman St W - Worthington, OH 43085

Dave Horn - 23 Ardus Rd - Cols, OH 43214

Marge Baughman - 113 Pleasant Lake Dr - Newark, OH 43055

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.

Bird seemed to have medium-sized body with a tail equal or slightly longer in length. Body was light gray above & below, the wings & tail were darker gray, and a dark line ran from the bill thru the eye. There was a hint of pink under the wings when it flew.

We didn't study the bird at length as our attention was on a nearby sage thrasher which was new to many of the party.

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

Not noted

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Tail length & pink wing pits pretty well eliminated anything else we could think of.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have seen hundreds of vesper-tails in my trips to Texas, Oklahoma, etc.

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

NAME (print): JULIET HOWARD

Mailing address: 316 RICHARDS RD - COLUMBUS, OH 43214

Signature: Juliet A. Howard

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