

Accepted 7-0

RARE BIRD REPORT--SIGHT RECORD

REPORT FILED BY: Alan E. Versaw
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red 12-20-96

SPECIES: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

DATE(S): October 5, 1996

OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: Male PLUMAGE: Adult, very crisp

LATILONG: Las Animas ELEVATION: 3900

TIME OF DAY: 9:00 am LOCALITY: one-half mile west of entrance to Ft. Lyon Veteran's Hospital

NEAREST TOWN: Las Animas COUNTY: Bent

DURATION OF OBSERVATION: approximately 5 minutes (would have stayed longer except we were doing a big day)

OTHER OBSERVERS: Steve Buettner, Doug Allen, Mark Hullinger

LIGHT CONDITIONS: Full sunlight. At our best angle we were at a right angle to the sun with respect to the bird.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Bushnell Natureview 8 X 42s, various other binoculars

DISTANCE: as close as about 15 feet

PHOTO DATA: none

BIRD BEHAVIOR: When we first saw the bird, it was perched on a telephone line. During the time we watched it, it would fly down to catch insects among the weeds along the fences and return to the wire to perch.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD: SONG AND/OR CALL: No vocalizations were made. The most striking things about the bird were the very long tail (almost certainly an adult male), and its incredibly bright pink coloration on the flanks and beneath the wings. The pink coloration extended further down the flanks than shown in the Peterson guides—fairly close to what the Natl. Geo. guide shows. Otherwise, the bird was light gray about the head and back, almost black on the tail but with a whitish outlining to the tail.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: The bird was in a habitat which might best be described as "rural." A few houses were to be found in the vicinity, but mostly there was a narrow road bordered by weedy fencerows.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILAR SPECIES: The bird was, frankly, rather obvious. No other large flycatcher has pinkish coloration. The only other flycatcher with a long, forked tail occurring in N. A. (the Fork-tailed Flycatcher) looks nothing like a Scissor-tailed.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR BIRDS: I've seen lots of S-t Flycatchers, mostly in Texas. Haven't seen a Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

REFERENCES CONSULTED: Peterson's Western guide, National Geo

DATE OF REPORT: October 6, 1996

SIGNATURE:

Alan Versaw