

Subj: Rare Bird Report  
 Date: 01/24/2000 12:41:37 PM Mountain Standard Time  
 From: chickaddd@juno.com (BB Hahn)  
 To: NCSWPL@aol.com

ACCEPT 7-0

CFO -ORC-FILE#

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

## Results:

Species: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

Date: June 10 (?), 1999, through July 18, 1999 (or beyond)

Number of birds seen: Two

Sex: One male, one female

Plumage: Adult

Locality: At the intersection of Woodmen Road (east) and Black Forest Road.

Elevation: Est. 6500'

Nearest town: Colorado Springs and Black Forest

County: El Paso

Time observed: Various. Early morning in the Cottonwood to the east; mid-day; afternoons.

Duration of observation: Up to 40 minutes on several occasions

Other observers with you: Tony Leukering and two other birders were there on June 30 while I was there.

Other observers who saw the bird independently: David Elwonger, Paul Green, Susan Craig, Virginia Maynard, Bill Maynard, Richard Stevens, and many others.

Light conditions: Various, from partly cloudy to clear and sunny. Birds viewed in the afternoon from the store parking lot across Black Forest Road afforded perfect views with the sun behind the observers' backs.

Optical equipment: Swarovski HD80 AT Scope and Swarovski 10x42 binocs

Distance from bird: 10 feet to 20 yards

Describe the bird's behavior: This pair was seen on several occasions copulating (June 19 by me, on previous dates by Paul Green, Richard Stevens and others), building a nest on a crossbar of a utility pole, sitting on electric wires and on the barbed wire fence below, flying to and from a large Cottonwood to the east and elsewhere, foraging below the nest area in the grass, and the female sitting on the nest.

This is the third year in a row STFLs have been seen in this exact location. This year was the first documented nesting attempt. Unfortunately, the female was found dead on the nest around June 28 (?). Cause of death unknown. We had had no severe hail, rain or wind storms after nest-building had begun. One theory put forward by another birder was pesticide or herbicide poisoning.

Describe the bird (what you actually saw): Two birds. Soft dove gray head, face, nape and back. Dark lores and dark bill. Grayish-white throat and breast with salmon sides and wing linings; dark salmon at the juncture of the wing and body seen well when birds preened, and also visible to a degree while birds were at rest, most noticeably on male. Dark wings and incredibly long white outer tail feathers with black tips on male; somewhat shorter tail on female.

Describe the bird's song and call if heard: I heard the "kek" call on a couple of occasions.

**Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:** Plains/grassland adjacent to two very busy thoroughfares lined with utility poles and fencing. One lone Plains Cottonwood perhaps an eighth of a mile east was a favorite spot for catching the early morning sun.

**How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:** vs. Eastern or Western Kingbirds. Plumage all wrong, tail much too long.

vs. Fork-tailed Flycatcher. These birds had no black cap, no white wing linings, and the tail was not long enough. FTFs also have no salmon coloring. I'd love to see one here, though...

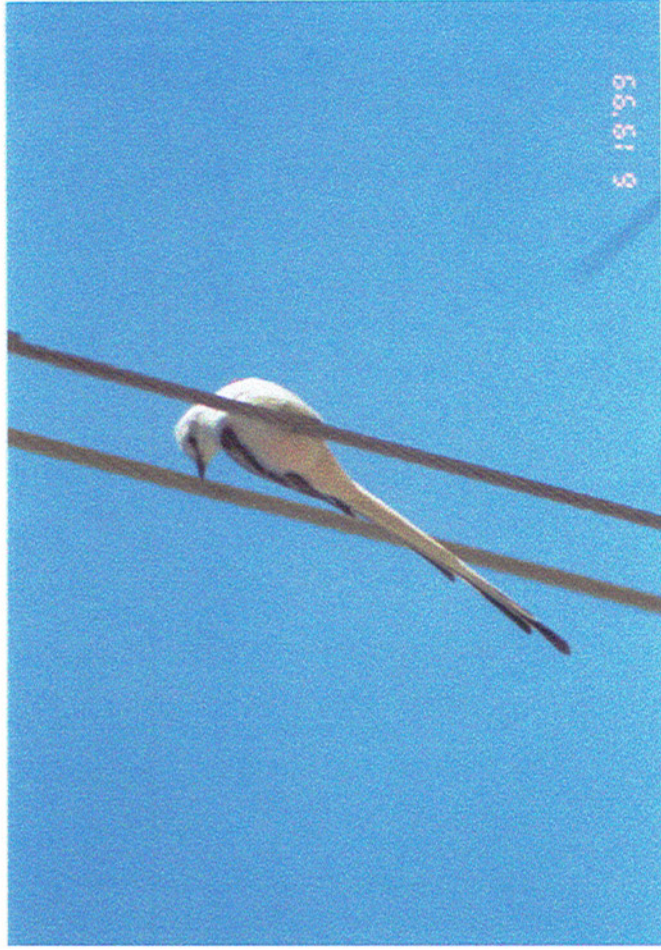
vs. Black-billed Magpie. Yes, someone said he thought they looked similar, so I'm including the comparison here. BBMA is much larger, stouter, has no salmon coloring, has black head, back, stout bill, white wing patches, etc.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:** Have seen hundreds in Texas.

**List books if they helped in your identification:** Not really necessary, but NGS Field Guide used on-site, mainly to see if it described the female in detail.

This report was written from notes taken during and after observation.

**Reporting observer:** BB Hahn, 2915 Hodgen Road, Black Forest, CO 80921 719-495-0647



1999-98  
photo by Todd Dillay  
Black Forest, CO  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher



1999-98

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

**Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**Red 3/20/00  
(Video)

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name)Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

(Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: 6/21/99

Number of birds seen: one

Sex:

Plumage:

Exact location: Colorado Springs

County:

Nearest town:

Elevation:

Length of observation: see video

Time(s) of observation:

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you:

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): mob

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position:

Optical equipment used: Canon Vistura Digital Video Camcorder 16X optical – 64X digital zoom

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted):

Was bird(s) photographed?

If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification):

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

Please see video

Describe bird's call or song:

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

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

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory

Date of written report: 3/16/00

Reporting observer: Rachel Kolokoff

Signature:

Rachel Kolokoff

Reporting Observer's Address: 1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.

City: Ft. Collins

State: CO

Zip: 80524

**Send report to:**  
**Colorado Birds Record Committee**  
**c/o Bill Lisowsky**  
**2919 Silverplume Dr.**  
**Ft. Collins, Co. 80526**