

ACCEPT 7-8

## DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Number: 1 male

Location: along Highway 14, just west of Briggsdale, Weld County, Colorado

Habitat: roadside

Date: 29 August 1999

Time: 8:35-8:55 a.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 1/2 West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird(s): Joe Fontaine, m.ob.

Rcd 1/21/00 upl  
(photo by Maxfield)

Description of bird(s): We had just finished birding at Crow Valley, and when we made the turn onto Highway 14 I spotted a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher perched on the telephone lines. We pulled onto the shoulder of the highway and viewed the bird at leisure. The most distinctive feature was the elongated outer rectrices, which were longer than the bird's body. The bird was fairly small, perhaps a bit smaller than a nearby Eastern Kingbird. Other features noted included the black bill, light gray head, upper breast, and mantle, pink belly and undertail coverts, and black wings, rump, and tail. The bird was not actively feeding, but it did make a few fly-catching sorties while we were watching. The bird did not vocalize. I aged the bird as an adult male on the basis of the plumage and elongated rectrices.

Similar species and how eliminated: The combination of size, gray head, pink underparts, and elongated outer rectrices eliminates all other passerines, especially Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

Previous experience with species: I am very familiar with this species from Florida and the southern Great Plains.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with clear skies. Estimated viewing distance was mostly 15-25m. I used 10x42 binoculars.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? written 15 October 1999



9/99  
photo by Dick Maxfield  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
near Buggable  
(weird)

1999-100



1999-100  
Rec'd 1/31/2004

## 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!**

CFO-RC FILE X:

**RESULTS:**

Species:(Common Name) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

(Scientific Name) *Tyrannus forficatus*

Date(s) of occurrence: 08 August, 1999

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: male

Plumage: alternate

Exact location: CO Hwy 14 at crossing of Crow Creek

County: Weld

Nearest town: Briggsdale

Elevation: ~4900 feet

Length of observation: 10 minutes

Time(s) of observation: 1000-1010

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

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Andrea Lueders, Beth Dillon, Dick Maxfield

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: The light was good, we were looking west and south west in the mid/late morning with clear skies.

Optical equipment used: 8x42 Orion binoculars

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 25 meters at closest

Was bird(s) photographed? Yes, with a digital camera

If so, have you submitted photos? No

Who took the photographs? Dick Maxfield

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: The bird was perched on telephone and fence wire in the general vicinity of the riparian area associated with Crow Creek.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): None

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):

The bird was initially seen perched on the telephone wire along Hwy 14. The identity of the bird was not hard to establish. The bird had two long tail feathers that were approximately the same length of the bird's body. The flanks and wing linings were pinkish when observed in flight. The head was completely pale. Based upon the length of the tail feathers we concluded that the bird was most likely an adult male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Describe bird's call or song: none were heard

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: The only other species with such a long tail is Fork-tailed flycatcher. This species has a black cap and pale flanks. Based on the entirely pale head and pinkish flanks of the bird we observed we eliminated Fork-tailed flycatcher.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in many places in Texas. I have never seen a Fork-tailed Flycatcher.


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

National Geographic field guide (2nd Edition)

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

Date of written report: 28 November, 1999

Reporting observer: Joe Fontaine

Signature: 

Reporting Observer's Address: 3108 Sumac St

City: Fort Collins

State: CO

Zip: 80526

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