

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD☐ NEW STATE RECORD☒ ACCEPTED☐ REJECTED 9/23/77Species: Vermilion Flycatcher
(Vernacular Name)Pyrocephalus rubinus
(Scientific Name-use binomial)Date(s): March 23, 1977Time Bird Seen: 10:00 am to 12:00 pmLocality: Arkansas river, 3 mi. NE of La JuntaNearest Town: La JuntaCounty: Otero

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME
Stephen R. TullyADDRESS
808 SE. Frontage Rd Ft. Collins, COTELEPHONE
487-1749Optical Equipment: 6x30 binoculars, 15-60 variable Bausch & Lomb spotting scope
If photographed, type of equipment used: 35mm, 1000 DTL Mamiya Sekor w/ 400mm lens & 2x telec
Light Conditions: excellent, no clouds
Distance from bird (how measured): 40 ft (camera lens measurement)Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ♀ ? Plumage: (as the Imm. ♂ in the book)

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: The bird displayed obvious Flycatcher behavior in that it would sit at the very top of the tamarisks or small cottonwoods & then every minute or so it would take off, seem to catch prey in the air & then return back to its perch. Usually these flights were real short. The bird seemed to only take slight notice of me.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

The bird's shape looked solely like a flycatcher but one of the smallest ones I have seen. He reminded me of a kingbird at first catching millers, but the peachy, bright, showy patch on its undersides could only match that of the picture of the Say's phoebe in the field guide to birds of North America but, I knew it was not a Say's phoebe because ~~its~~ ^{and the breast streaks were obvious} size was way too small. After reading the description on the Say's I went to the Verm. flycatcher which showed the streaked breast & the bright undersides like I had seen on this bird. The flycatcher I was watching had a very white throat underneath its bill which stood apart from its dark slate colored head. The eye looked black. The wings & tail were very dark. It resembled the picture of the imm ♂ in the book but I presume a ♀ would look similar since no other picture is provided.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

The bird did not call once in the time I watched it.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

open riverbottom w/ sparse tamarisks & yg. cottonwood trees.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

The say's phoebe was the only other flycatcher that had the bright peachy color that this flycatcher had but this bird was much smaller than a say's and it had a streaked breast (definite) and a white throat which the say's does not have.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

No experience w/ a vermilion flycatcher but I am very familiar with the say's phoebe and a number of the other flycatchers.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds of North America. Robbins, Braun, Zim, Singer - I had this book w/ me and I watched this bird until I was 100% sure that was what it was. I knew by the map that it wasn't common, so after reading The Pictorial Checklist of Colorado Birds I realized how rare & decided to turn in the sighting. Since it hasn't been reported before, this report was written from notes made during after observation; from memory X for stereo.

PRINT NAME: Babette F. Tully SIGNATURE: Babette F. Tully DATE: April 6, 1977
Street Address: 808 SE Frontage Rd Town and State: Ft. Collins, CO ZIP: 80521

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110