

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☐

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Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Vermillion Flycatcher | Pyrocephalus rubinus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): June 14, 1981Number of birds seen: 1 alive, 3 dead Sex: male & female Plumage: adult breeding & nestli

Locality: _____ Elevation: _____

Nearest town: Akron County: LoganTime(s) observed: 1100-1130 hoursDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) 30 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Jeanne & Ray Halsey 6422 Bluebird Longmont Co. 80501 530-1628Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
Bruce Webb, Peter Gent, Steve & Dianne LarsonLight conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
In full light most of time from alldifferent anglesOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Binocs; Bushnell 7 x 50Distance, and how measured: closest estimated 50'If photographed, type of equipment and film: Yashica w/ viviatr 400mm and Ricoh w/ Fuji 200mm w/ 2x converterWho else photographed the bird? Steve Larson

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

The male would land on perch then fly out to catch insects and return to nearby perch. He made two long flights across the shelter belt then resumed feeding behavior. On second flight he did a flight song.

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

The bird was smaller than a Say's Pheobe, 5 to 5½ inches. Bird sat with head high, not in Kingbird fashion but like a Pheobe.

He was bright red on poll, crown, above nape, throat, breast, belly, and flanks. He had a dark mask through the eyes from the bill to the nape, down the back & wings, and on the top and bottom of the tail. Legs were a slaty-blue. Bill ~~was~~ was thin and dark. Wings in flight from below were very dark almost black. Tail was squared off, not rounded or forked. There appeared to be two small spots of red on rump or upper-tail coverts.

ption, (continued)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): A song was given in flight with the head held higher than normal and wing only half opened & beating more rapidly. Song was a rapid ps-ps-ps-ps-ps lasting about a half second and rising in pitch.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: The area was a large shelter belt (6 acres) of Elms, cottonwoods and pines, with very little under-growth. The bird hung around the Elms on the eastern edge of belt.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Say's Pheobe have an over all cinnamon color, not a contrasting red and dark.

House Finch is not that bright a red and has streaking on the breast. They also don't have a dark mask.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?
This was the first time I had ever seen a Vermillion Flycatcher
I see Pheobe's daily and saw two pair with the Vermillion.
I see House Finches daily year round.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: Golden Series Field Guide to birds

b) after observation: Songs of Western Birds (Donald J. Borror)

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

Date and time report was written: July 23, 1981 3:30

Reporting observer: Larry Halsey

Signature: Larry R. Halsey

Address: 6422 Bluebird Ave. Longmont, Colo. 80501

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below.

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
CITY PARK
DENVER, COLORADO 80205