

VERMILION FLYCATCHER
(Vernacular Name)

ACCEPT 7-0 34-95-64
Pyrocephalus rubinus
(Scientific Name)

DATE OF OBSERVATION	TIME OF OBSERVATION	NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN	SEX	PLUMAGE
June 20, 1995	1125 TO 1150 MDT	one	Female	alternate-?
	TO			
	TO			

LOCALITY: Campground in the northeast corner of Jumbo Reservoir SWA
ELEVATION: 3500' COUNTY: Logan

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD (Names, Addresses, Telephone Number):
None that I know of.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: 9.5X44 Celestron Binoculars

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Mostly clear; variable winds 10 MPH; 85° F.

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: Not a real factor as bird spent most of its time in understory

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 15' to 50'. Estimated

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: First observed flitting about low to the ground bus flycatching. Sallied forth from low branches (very active) to capture prey, then returning to an exposed perch. Several times it fluttered to the tall grass beneath the small, woodland trees. Very phoebe-like in mannerisms. often flicking its tail upon returning to a perch following a hunting Sally.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (EMPHASIS ON KEY FIELD MARKS): Relative size and shape; plumage and color pattern of head, upperparts and underparts; shape and color of bill, wings, tail, feet and legs; eye color.

Somewhat "Phoebe-like" but a bit smaller and with a much shorter tail. Grayish crown and nape separated by a rather dark face mask with a light supercilium. Throat and breast white. Belly, flanks and undertail coverts peach to salmon colored with inconspicuous, broken brownish streaking. Grayish-brown back and upperwings. Uppertail black.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued):

HABITAT: Small grove of young elm trees bordered by pasture land to the south, fresh-water reservoir to the west and north and riparian area to the northeast

VOCALIZATION (call/song; how delivered-perched, in flight; frequency; duration):

None heard.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES: Rather distinctive but might be confused with:

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*): Immature has whitish to pale yellowish wash on lower breast and flanks, lacks dusky streaking on the breast and has indistinct wing bars (two). Also is somewhat larger with longer tail.

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*): Immature has indistinct streaking on yellow washed underparts. Lacks any white on breast. As with S. phoebe, somewhat larger and longer tailed.

EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS: Normally have pale eyerings and more or less prominent two wing bars.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: Have seen many times over the past 30+ years in Arizona, Texas and California (both males and females). Also observed five times in Colorado including the first successful nesting pair at the G.D. Davidson Ranch in Washington County on June 7, 1981.

EASTERN PHOEBE: Seen throughout much of the eastern half of the United States (including eastern Colorado) dating back to 1942.

SAY'S PHOEBE: Seen throughout much of the western United States since 1963 including a nesting pair at Council, Alaska some 70 miles south-east of Nome in June 1993.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

None required.

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ AFTER ☐ OBSERVATION; FROM MEMORY ☒

NAME: JACK REDDALL

SIGNATURE: Jack Reddall

DATE: June 24, 1995