

2001-149

rec'd 1/13/02 ACCEPTED

Species: Vermilion Flycatcher

Date: April 13 2001

Location: Cottonwood Canyon, Baca County, CO

Optical aids: Kowa 20-60x telescope, various binoculars including zeiss 7x42 dialyt

Situation: whilst birding with a group of eight British birders I spotted a male Vermilion Flycatcher in Cottonwood trees on the valley floor of Cottonwood Canyon. We all got to see the bird in binoculars and telescope, and watched it mainly unobscured for about ten minutes at ranges of about 50-100 yards as it flew from tree to tree until it moved out of view and we carried on birding. Also present in the same Cottonwood trees were several Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Description: Bright red underparts and head only interrupted by a dark greyish eyestripe. Upperparts from nape to tail dark leaden grey, with indistinct paler tips to coverts. Thin black bill and legs. Bird was a male based on time of year and brightness of plumage. Behaviour: perching upright on low branches of Cottonwood trees. Voice: not heard.

Previous experience: I have seen this species on numerous occasions elsewhere in the Americas, but this was a CO state bird for me. Some of the other members of the group had also seen this species before

Best regards and Good Birding

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