

6-1 (A) 2004-15
rec'd 4/12/04

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #:

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Vermilion Flycatcher

(Scientific Name) Pyrocephalus rubinus

Date(s) of occurrence: Thursday, April 1, 2004

Number of birds seen: One

Sex: Female

Plumage:

Exact location: Pueblo Lake State Park, South Picnic Area

County: Pueblo

Nearest town: Pueblo

Elevation:

Length of observation: In view for a minute or more

Time(s) of observation: About 9:00 am

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Don Lewis (IDed bird first), Bob Lewis, Bev Brock, Kathy Robertson, Penny Stewart

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Sunny, light was over my left shoulder at first

Optical equipment used: B&L Elite 8 x 42, Kowa TSN 824 with 32 x wide angle

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 100 yards at first; further later

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? No

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: When Don Lewis first attracted my attention the bird was sitting atop a short (10 ft high?) leafless tree. Later, when Bob Lewis spotted the bird, it was atop a taller tree.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: I saw the bird when it was perched, and saw it drop quickly out of view into a ravine that separates the picnic area from a rocky outcrop. On its first tree it was perched alertly, evidently looking for flying prey. Its attitude on its second, more distant perch, appeared to be the same. It disappeared from there while I was trying to get closer to it. We could not re-find the bird in 15 - 30 minutes of birding the immediate area.

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. I first saw the bird's right side, in profile, as it perched atop a small, leafless tree. Its general shape and near-horizontal posture marked it as a probable flycatcher, and its shorter tail suggested it was not a Say's Phoebe. Don had called it as a Vermilion Flycatcher, and I sought to confirm (or not) that identification. I saw a small-seeming, short-tailed bird, perching in a nearly horizontal attitude. The bird's face seemed pale, as did its underparts down to a peachy wash on its lower belly. A dark eye stood out in a darkish (not terribly dark) cheek patch bordered above by a whitish supercilium, and the bill also appeared dark, thin, and fairly short. The bird's cap, back, and wings were dark; I didn't carefully note their exact colors, or any color contrast in these areas. I could not detect any streaking on the bird's chest, but concluded later that any such streaking would very likely not be discernible at my distance. When Bob called the bird again, on a second perch, it was further away from me, so I couldn't discern any more useful details.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: No sounds heard.

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: The only other species I considered at the time was Say's Phoebe, which we had seen in numbers earlier on our trip. This bird's tail was shorter than a Say's Phoebe's, and its posture was more nearly horizontal. A Say's underparts would have looked much darker than our bird's, and Say's doesn't have a pale supercilium. Another possible confusion species, I guess, is Eastern Phoebe, which I didn't consider at the time. Eastern Phoebe, too, would not display our bird's pale supercilium, however, nor a peachy (not yellowish) underbelly.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Quite familiar with Say's Phoebes, and with Vermilion Flycatcher (from Arizona, mainly). Always need to be reminded of Eastern Phoebes when I'm in their range (usually in Texas).

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): We checked Sibley and the NGS guide back at our cars. All commented on the whitish supercilium those books depict. The only confusion species I recall being mentioned was Say's Phoebe.

This report was made from (check one) ☐ notes made during observation ☐ notes made after observation ☒ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: April 11, 2004; 2:00 pm

Reporting observer: David E. Quady

Signature: *DE Quady* 4/11/04

Reporting observer's address: 39 The Crescent

City: Berkeley

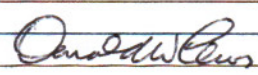
State: California

Zip: 94708

rec'd 4/8/04

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
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CBRC FILE #:		
RESULTS:		
Species: (Common Name) Vermilion Flycatcher		(Scientific Name): Pyrocephalus rubinus
Date(s) of occurrence: April 1, 2004		
Number of birds seen: One	Sex: Female	Plumage: Adult female
Exact location: South marina area, Pueblo Reservoir, seen by scope from near the Visitor Center		
County: Pueblo	Nearest town: Pueblo	Elevation:
Length of observation: Ten minutes		Time(s) of observation: About 8 AM
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Dave Quady, Bob Lewis, Kathy Robertson, Bev Brock, Penny Stewart		
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):		
Light conditions (quality, direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Excellent. Sunny, clear. Sun was behind us as we looked west. Slight breeze.		
Optical equipment used: Nikon 78mm scope with 20-45 zoom. Others had a variety of similar quality scopes with zooms up to 60x.		
Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 200 yards		
Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? No		If so, are you submitting photos?
Who took the photograph(s)?		
Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Dry, rocky to gravelly ground, with scattered low brush and a few junipers. About 30 feet above lake level, about 50-100 feet from lake edge. Bird was sitting in top of a bare, thin-branched bush perhaps ten feet tall.		
Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: It just sat still before dropping down behind a slope where we were unable to refind it upon closer approach.		
DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report.: Finch-sized bird with somewhat pudgy appearance. Brown back, nape, and crown. Dark tail. Indistinct wing bar. Noticeable white throat becoming smudgy on upper breast. Lower belly and undertail was pinkish or rufous. White supercilium with noticeable dark line through eye, widening to rear of eye. Small bill. Did not notice strong breast streaks but distance was great. Most diagnostic things were the lower belly and undertail color and the line through the eye.		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:		
SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Say's Phoebe: Shorter tail, white throat, supercilium, smaller size.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Have seen VEFL dozens of times; Say's hundreds of times.		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): After returning to car, we all checked Sibley and agreed that the ID was correct. I wanted most to confirm on Vermilion the line through the eye, although ID was made without reference to any book.		
This report was made from (check one) ___ notes made during observation ___ notes made after observation <u>X</u> later from memory.		
Date and time of written report: April 7		
Reporting observer: Donald W. Lewis		Signature: 
Reporting observer's address: 3810 Happy Valley Road		
City: Lafayette	State: CA	Zip: 94549

Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601