

Black Phoebe

~~4-17-78~~ Accepted - RA 6-2-78  
Sayornis nigricans

Species:

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): August 9 to September 23, 1977 Time Bird Seen: Almost any time ~~xxx~~ of the day

Locality: From the back of 53 Rio Vista Circle to the fish hatchery, about one mile

Nearest Town: In the city of Durango, Colo. County: La Plata

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Kip Stransky	101 West 31st. St. Durango;	tel. 247-8138;
	Maribel Ellis, 81 Folsom Place,	
	Tel 247-3578;	Herb and Jane Owen, 100 Rio Vista Circle, Tel 247-4725, all of Durango;
	and Stacey Bouman, 944 Calle Katarina, Santa Fe, N. M.;	tel. 505-983-5350. <del>ELLIS</del>

Optical Equipment: 7 x 35 Bausch-Lomb Zephyr; and 4 Bushnells: one 8 x 40; others 7x35

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Good to excellent

Distance from bird (how measured): from 20' at times to 100'; estimated.

Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: M & F Plumage: 1-bl.w/bl.chest and white belly  
1-a/little lighter and white belly

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Mostly catching flying insects from rocks in Animas River, and coming back to the same perch or rock. Sitting sometimes on low limbs of trees or shrubs; sitting in shady areas rather than sunlight.

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:

Slightly smaller and same shape as Says Phoebe; black breast, head, back, and tail, white belly. Song: none that anyone heard. Bill: dark and fly-catcher shape. Tail: narrow white stripe on the outside feathers; habit of wagging its tail.

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

No song that anyone heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

River rocks, low limbs of shrubs and trees along the Animas river; never seen ~~high~~ high in the air, always flying low over the river or along the shore.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

None to compare it with ~~similarities~~ except with a "slate" junco, which was entirely too small to be this bird; and the junco is not here that time of year anyhow. This bird was definitely a flycatcher of good size with flycatcher habits.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

None of us had previously seen this particular species of birds but are experienced birders able to recognize and identify a large number of species with certainty.

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

Robbins, Bruun, Zim and Singer, Birds of North America  
Peterson's Guide to Western Birds (Field)

First identified without looking at any bird book; then checked and found accurate. This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_ after x observation; from memory x

PRINT NAME: Elva Fox SIGNATURE: Elva Fox DATE: 1 / 23 / 78  
Street Address: 53 Rio Vista Circle Town and State: Durango, Colo. ZIP: 81301

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