

## APPENDIX II

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Black Phoebe ; Sayornis nigricans  
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 20 May 1985 Time Bird Seen: 7:20 pm to 8:10 pmLocality: Pond behind Dick Guadagno's house  
Ridgway, Colorado (Ouray County)  
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs; Bushnell 30-45x spotting scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: one Sex: — Plumage: adultLight conditions: Low but full sun (from side) until 7:30 pm / Behind mountains thenDistance from bird, and how measured: From 10 meters (once) to 75 meters (usually).

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Perched usually at tip of 1-2 ft high fenceposts sub-  
merged in pond; also from tops of bushes; "Nervous"; seldom perched in one spot for  
more than 10 secs. Caught insects on the wing; sallying out from fence posts  
perch & returning there or to another perch. Continually flicks tail, wagging  
Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: It up and down.  
at edges of, or over, boggy pond. Has edges of bushes and shrubs (wild  
low and buffaloberry); scrub (sage), and wet meadow.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Dick Guadagno Ridgway Colo.

# APPENDIX 11 Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field. About 5 1/2-6" long. Quite small and slender, but has a short neck &

is fairly large-headed. Back of head sl. peaked with an indistinct crest. Perch at an angle, fairly erect. Bill small & straight, slender in profile; black in color. Eyes, legs and feet black. Undertail coverts, belly and lower flanks pure white. Other wise plumage all sooty black (not shiny black like a blackbird). Head is darker than rest of body when seen in good light (this is very slight). Margin where white belly meets black breast in a clean, neat line that is highest in the center - in an inverted "V". No wingbars; but edge of greater covert (lower "wingbar") is slightly paler edged, as are the edges of the folded flight feathers. Tail is sooty black, medium long and pretty square-tipped. (I didn't look for, nor did I see white edges to tail.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: I played the Peterson Guide bird song for Black Phoebe but this had little effect, except that it may have repelled the bird once. I heard the bird give one single thin call note when it flew from me.

List similar species and how you eliminated them: There really is no other bird that's with all black with a white belly. The fly-catching habit, tail-flicking and peaked head indicate a flycatcher. This pattern is unique to flycatcher. Slate-colored junco is grey, not black & has pink bill.

Prior experience with this and similar species: I've seen Black Phoebe many times in the last 5 years in Texas, Arizona and California.

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☐ observation; from memory ☐.

Name (print) : Mark Janos

Mailing address: 860 Sharpe C Delta Colo 81416

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205

Species: BLACK PHOEBE  
(Vernacular name)SAYORNIS NIGRICANS  
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 20 MAY 1985 Time Bird Seen: 7 AM to 7 PMLocality: MY HOME 2 MILES NORTH OF RIDGWAY, OURAY COUNTY,  
COLORADO  
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 8X20 BINOCULARS, 45 X SCOPEIf photographed, please enclose (copy). Equipment used: 22X SCOPE (EQUALS 2400 mm LENS)  
STILL IN CAMERA + 35mm CAMERANumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: ADULTLight conditions: VARIABLE; MOSTLY SUNNYDistance from bird, and how measured: 50 TO 150 FEET (ESTIMATE)

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

FLYCATCHING FROM VARIOUS PERCHES, USUALLY TOP BRANCH OF  
DEAD OR LIVING SHRUBS. SELDOM RETURNS TO SAME PERCH.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

MIXED BRUSH SURROUNDING BEAVER POND

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

MARK JANOS DELTA, CO

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

MEDIUM-SIZED FLYCATCHER, STOCKY BODY, SHORT TAIL, ERECT POSTURE; LARGE BLACK HEAD; WINGS, BACK, + TAIL DUSKY BROWN (ALMOST BLACK); VERY FAINT GRAY WINGBARS, GRAY EDGES ON FLIGHT FEATHERS. THROAT, BREAST, + FLANKS BLACK, FORMING INVERTED U AROUND WHITE BELLY; WHITE UNDER TAIL COVERTS.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

NONE HEARD

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

EASTERN PHOEBE: GRAYISH WHITE THROAT + BREAST

SAY'S PHOEBE: GRAY THROAT, REDDISH BELLY, LONGER TAIL

EASTERN KINGBIRD: WHITE UNDERPARTS, WHITE BAND ON TAIL, LARGER

Prior experience with this and similar species:

BLACK PHOEBE: SEEN IN TEXAS, UTAH

EASTERN PHOEBE: SEEN IN RIDGEWAY

SAY'S PHOEBE, EASTERN KINGBIRD: FAIRLY COMMON IN AREA

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

NAME (print): JAMES R. GUADAGNO

Mailing address: 2915 BASELINE RD., #324 BOULDER, CO 80303

Signature: James R. Guadagno

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery  
869 Milwaukee Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206