

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: BLACK PHOEBE | SAYORNIS NIGRICANS
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): SUNDAY JUNE 12, 1988Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: BREEDINGLocality: HALE PONDS Elevation: 4000'?Nearest town: HALE County: YUMATime(s) observed: 11-11:15 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 10 MINUTES

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

BRIGHT SUNLIGHT, GOOD CONDITIONS.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BINOCULARS 10X40Distance, and how measured: 30-40 YARDS ESTIMATED

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

FLY CATCHING FROM DEAD LOGS IN HALE POND. CHARACTERISTIC FLIGHT FROM LOGS ABOUT A FOOT ABOVE THE WATER. PUMPED TAIL WHEN LANDING.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

MY EYE WAS FIRST CAUGHT ~~BY~~ BY A SMALL BIRD FLY CATCHING FROM A LOG
LESS THAN A FOOT ABOVE THE WATER SURFACE. WHEN SEEN THROUGH BINOCULARS,
THE HEAD, BACK, UPPER BREAST, THROAT AND TAIL WERE ALL BLACK.

Description (continued):

THE LOWER BREAST, AND UPON CLOSER EXAMINATION, THE UNDER TAIL COVERTS WERE BRIGHT WHITE. THE SHORT BILL AND EYE WERE ALSO BLACK. MY IMMEDIATE IDENTIFICATION WAS THEN ~~SHAT~~ STRENGTHENED BY THE BIRD, HAVING FLOWN, LANDING AND PUMPING ITS TAIL SLOWLY AROUND IN A KIND OF CIRCLE. THIS IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS SPECIES, AS ALSO IS THE FACT THAT IT IS FAIRLY CLOSELY TIED TO WATER HABITATS.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

NONE GIVEN

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

ON DEAD LOGS IN HAIR PONDS.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

EASTERN PHOEBE - HEAD, BACK & UPPER BREAST BLACK, LOWER BREAST BRIGHT WHITE.
SAYS PHOEBE - SAME AS ABOVE.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

HAVE SEEN BLACK PHOEBE NUMEROUS TIMES IN US AND CENTRAL AMERICA.
VERY FAMILIAR WITH EASTERN AND SAYS PHOEBE IN COLORADO

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation X from memory _____
Date and time report was written: 6/19/88

Reporting observer: PETER GENT Signature: Peter Gent

Address: 55 S 35th ST, BOULDER, CO 80303.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205