

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: BLACK PHOEBE; Sayornis n. 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): Apr. 26, '92
June 21, '92 Time Bird Seen: 10:30 - to 2:30
Locality: St. Charles Canyon, Pueblo County
3 mi. from Benthah, CO.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 8 X 20 / 7.2° minolta binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Pentax ME Super
100 mm lens

Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: male female Plumage: adult →

Light conditions: Bright, cloudless day - directly overhead

Distance from bird, and how measured: 30 yds to 60 yds (estimation)

Describe the bird's overall behavior: male feeding female, territorial
circling in area of last yr. nest site, Flying to
old nest site, perhaps beginning some nest building
Perching on prominent dead branches, calling. →

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: canyon with various
overhangs, pools, some marsh areas. Surrounding area
is grasslands

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

Giles Greenfield } Benthah, CO Brandon Percival
Janel Macrie } 81023 Pueblo West, CO
Barne Watson }

Brandon Percival reports seeing an immature black phoebe (June 21) as well. I did not see this one.

Head of bird looking rapidly right/left. Flycatching behavior, some "tail pumping".

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.

Size: $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. long

Shape: flycatcher shape, small crest, upright posture

Plumage:

Color pattern: dk. grey - black plain back and head, black eyes extending down sides. White abdomen, ~~and breast~~. Black shoulders

bill, wings, tail: flycatcher bill, wings entirely black, as well as the tail extending to breast

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery--

i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: The male and female both appear to call - male predominating. Male called from prominent perch. The call was reminiscent of flycatchers of the area, but recognizably different - distinct.

List similar species and how you eliminated them: The only flycatchers close in coloring are the eastern kingbird and eastern phoebe. It was distinctly smaller than the kingbird (which are not uncommon here) and the black extension to each shoulder and upper

Prior experience with this and similar species: I had never seen this bird before. I have been apart of Co. Breeding Bird Survey, etc., so I am familiar with the flycatcher and phoebes (Say's) (eastern)

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

Name (print) :

Anne A. Whitfield

Mailing address:

8840 Grand Ave Berth, Co.

Signature:

Anne A. Whitfield

Return Form To:

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

describe otherwise

breast eliminate either of the other two birds.



phoebe near site of last
year's nest (♂ + ♀)

BLACK PHOEBE 34-92-56

A. WHIT FIELD



Photo at present
Black Photo

34-92-56 A. WHITE

CFO Rare Bird Form

34-92-56

 - New State Record - X - Rare bird in CO

Black Phoebe
 (Species)

Sayornis nigricans
 (Scientific name)

Date(s): First found on April 26, 1992 (AW) 2 adults
 June 21, 1992 (BP) 1 juvenile
 2:00-2:05 PM observed on rock

Locality: Near Beulah, Pueblo County Colorado
 Map Attached.
 Nearest town, county and state)

Optical equipment: 7X35 Bushell Binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:
 Not Photographed.

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: juvenile

Light Conditions: Good, the sun was behind me also shade by
 trees around the rock cliff where the bird was.

Distance from bird and how measured: About 8 feet, guessed.

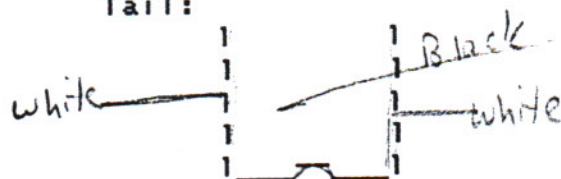
Describe the bird's overall behavior: I observed the fly
 up from the river and land on a cliff with large rocks. The
 bird did not move much except to catch some type of insects
 which were on the rock. The tail was pumping up and down as
 long as it sat on the rock which it did for 5 minutes. Then
 the bird flew and I could not refind it.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Canyon
 country with running stream, Many juniper, pinyon and
 cottonwood trees. Also hanging cliffs and waterfalls. Many
 high wall cliffs and some scrub oak trees in area.

Other observers who independently identified the bird
 (Please list names and address):
 Ann Whitfield April 26, 1992

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. The field marks used to identify the bird. Include Size, overall shape, plumage, and color pattern; details on shape of bill, wings, and tail.: Following is what I observed on the 2 to 3 week old Black Phoebe: Sooty gray on head (not black like adult males have), nape, chin, and breast. Strong contrast with head, nape chin and breast, with underpart which was all white. The bill was black with orange/yellow color on sides of bill. Eye color dark. Feet and legs are black. Tail, wings, upper tail coverts all sooty gray. Undertail coverts white like all under parts of bird. Shape was typical of all phoebe, compared with both Eastern and Say's Phoebes seen nesting in area that day, tail was pumping up and down. Bill medium short and straight. Sooty gray wings with two wing bars which were also sooty gray. Round head. Thin white lines on both sides of squared tail with notch (see drawing). Size a little over 6 inches, smaller than Eastern Phoebe by inch and a half and inch smaller than Say's.

Tail:



Describe the bird's calls or sounds if heard:
No call heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:
Dark-eyed Junco (State-colored Form): male alot of white in tail and yellow short beak for seeds not flys or bugs like flycatchers eat.
Eastern Phoebe: summer no white on ether sides of tail, and color overall is brown not sooty gray.

Prior experience with this and similar species:
I've seen around 10 Black Phoebes in Arizona, this is my first for Colorado.
I've seen thousands of State-colored Juncos in Colorado.
I've seen some Eastern Phoebe in Colorado including 1 adult .on nest near area of Black Phoebe the same day.

Other notes by observer: I observed one phoebe fly down the river and land on a scrub oak over hanging the river which had a dark head and breast and light underneath parts. This may have been a male adult Black Phoebe however I'm not sure. Also The pair were observed building a nest in late April. The bird I observed was a juvenile, so they had to have nested here.

This report was written from notes made during X
after x; from memory .

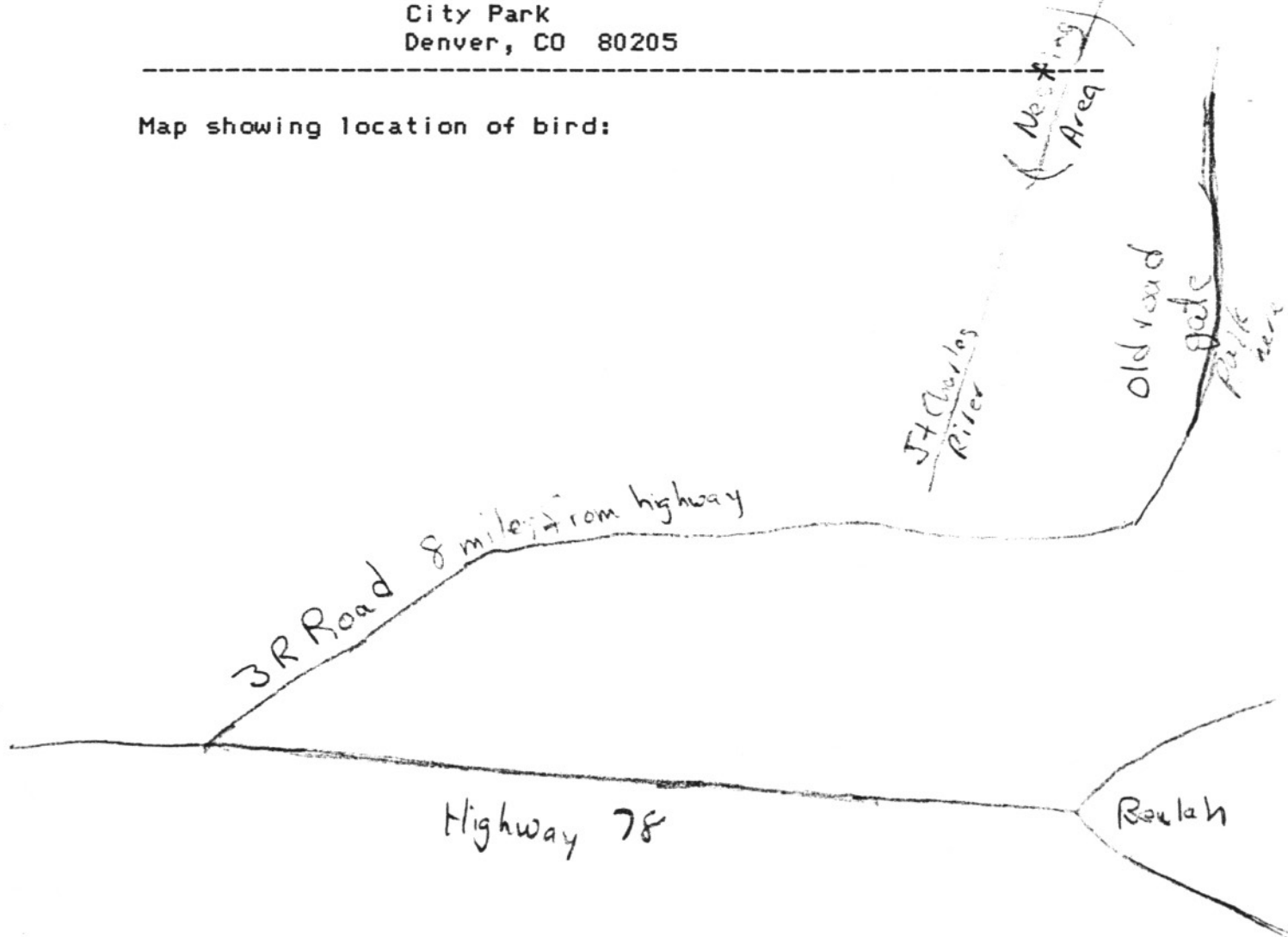
Name: Brandon K. Percival
Mailing address: 835 Harmony Dr.
Pueblo West, Colorado
(719)-547-3722

Signature: _____

Brandon K. Percival

Return form to: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator-Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

Map showing location of bird:



Brandon Percival