

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

ACCEPTED

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

|X|

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

Species: Black Phoebe Sayornis nigricans
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 11 MAY 1994Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: U Plumage: _____Locality: BELOW RIFLE FALLS FISH HATCHERY LATILONG (9)
ABOVE RIFLE FALLS STATE PARK Elevation: 6600Nearest town: Rifle County: GarfieldTime(s) observed: 1205Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): Aprox 3min.

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

J. RICHARD GUADAGNO
P.O. BOX 208
Paonia, CO 81428
(303) 527-4563

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):

Optimum conditions, Full sun, Bird just above eye level facing toward us, Bird north of us, Clear view, no shadows. Bird faced us with erect perched posture, tail visible.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Pentax 7x50 BinocularsDistance, and how measured: Approx 20yds - Paced off

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):

Perched on barbed wire strand above 6' chain-link fence. Erect posture. Bird turned its head from side to side to look at us but otherwise stayed still. Bird turned toward the west, hesitated, then flew away to the west into other deciduous trees.

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 observed in the field: The first look at the bird brought flycatcher to mind. Larger than a warbler. Smaller than a robin, tail straight down, erect posture. A black and white bird, solid colors, distinct colors, distinct chest + belly mark. Dark eyes, dark thin bill. The bird was clearly not a junco. When the bird turned to the west - no eye ring, no wing bars, no white on rectrices. Dark feet.

Description (continued)



I.D. of Black Phoebe was obvious by contrasting white abdomen with black Breast forming an upside down letter V.

What we were watching especially close for was an indication of the birds age. When the bird turned west, it became clear the color was a dark charcoal gray with some brown color instead of black. Giving us the impression of a younger bird. First year bird.


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:

Riparian Valley floor - Box Elder, ^{NARROW leaf} Cottonwood, Rifle Creek, above cattails, Hawthorns and chokecherries fish ponds, Some Sage & Rabbit brush Valley Walls Rock, Pinon, Juniper Gambel OAK transition from valley floor

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

 The contrasting black & white made an upside down letter V. it was not a flat line. The bill was black, not finch like. It could not be a junco.

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

Black Phoebe's observed in Colima Mexico

Jan 1993

JAN 1994

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

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation: consulted Field Guide to the Birds of North America National Geographic Society confirming & looking for pictures & descriptions of young birds.

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation X from memory _____

Date and time report was written: 11 MAY 1994 1600

Reporting observer: Kim M. POTTER Signature: Kim M. Potter

Address: 440 EAST 7th STREET

Rifle, CO 81650-2918

Return to:

Bill Prather

C.F.O. Official Records Committee

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