

ACCEPT 7-0

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: Black Phoebe (Vernacular Name) Sayornis nigricans (Scientific Name)Date(s): #1-10/14/95; #2-10/15/95; #3-10/15/95; #4-10/16/95; #5-10/17/95Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: not applicableLocality: Canon City Riverwalk, MacKenzie Parking Area Elevation: 5380 feetNearest town: Canon City, CO County: FremontTime(s) observed: #1-6:15 pm; #2-7:40 am; #3-10:00 am; #4-5:30 pm; #5-7:55 amDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): #1-5 min; #2-2 min; #3-2 min; #4-8 min; #5-1 min

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

On 10-15-95 at 7:40 am : David Pantle
1826 Flora Drive
Canon City, CO 81212-4577

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

On 10-16-95: David Pantle
same as above

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

#1-bird to E., sun in W., close to dusk; #2-bird W. to N., sun in E., good morning light;
#3-bird to N., sun in S.E., very bright morning light; #4-bird to E., sun in W., late
afternoon but good light; #5-bird to W., sun in E., good morning light.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Swift Ultralight binoculars, 8 X 42Distance, and how measured: closest was 25 ft.--walked off distance after bird flew awayIf photographed, type of equipment and film: #1-videotape, several minutes; 8mm.; 8 power lens (zoom)
#2-1 picture, 35 mm SLR, Kodacolor print; 35-80 mm zoomWho else photographed the bird? no one that I know about

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

Flycatching (hawking) for feeding; it bobbed or flicked its tail up and down while perched;
perched in an upright position.

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:

Medium size for a passerine. Black head and neck, solid dark black in color. Eyes were dark but without eye rings. Bill was dark (black?), legs and feet also dark. Throat was solid black, belly was white (with distinct demarcation between black and white parts coming almost to a point on the chest in an inverted 'V'). Undertail coverts were white. Inner and middle

Description (continued):

tail feathers were black but outer tail feathers were distinctively white. Nape, back, rump and upper tail feathers were black. Wings were black with light (possibly white) either edging or streaks near edges, but there were no wing bars.

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

I only heard a "cheep" (pronounced with a long "e") call, usually emitted in a series of several consecutive calls. The calls ~~were~~ emitted both while perching and flying. The calls were high pitched and not metallic sounding.

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

The general habitat is riparian. The bird was usually seen close to a water filled ditch which runs next to the parking area. Although I usually saw the bird perched on a snag or tree branch within 10-15 feet from the ground, I also saw it 25-35 feet up in cottonwood trees a few times. One time it was inside the branches of a wild plum.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Dark eyed juncos have light colored instead of dark bills, have light colored instead of dark feet and often feed on the ground (I never saw this bird on the ground). Slate colored race juncos are grey instead of black. White winged juncos are also grey and have white wing bars. Eastern Phoebes are white underneath from throat to tail. Says Phoebes have a rust or peach belly and undertail coverts.

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

I observed and recognized my first Black Phoebe in October, 1994 near Sedona, AZ. I subsequently saw a number of Black Phoebes in that area over a period of several days. I later observed several more Black Phoebes in December, 1994 near Carlsbad, N.M. and also in April, 1995 in S.E. AZ while on birding trips. I have seen many dark eyed juncos in Colorado including in my yard. I have seen a few Says Phoebes and no Eastern Phoebes.

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

- a) at time of observation: Golden Guid to Field Identification of Birds of N. America--this confirmed by memory of markings.
- b) after observation: 1. Consulted National Geographic and Nat. Audubon Society field guides, confirming identification @2. Called David Pantle and Rosie Watts. This helped rule out other species. 3. On second day, David Pantle confirmed my identification.

This report was written from reports made during some after observation some from memory some

I also reviewed videotape several times while writing report.

Date and time report was written: October 23, 1995 7 pm

Reporting observer: SeEtta Moss

Signature: _____

Address: 833 Robbie Lane

Canon City, CO 81212

**Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
13810 WCR 1
Longmont, Colorado 80504**

ACCEPT 7-0

CFO-ORC-FILE# _____

NEW STATE RECORD ___ RARE RECORD ___ UNUSUAL RECORD X

Species: *Black Phoebe*
(Vernacular Name)

Sayornis nigricans
(Scientific Name)

Dates: December 17, 1995.

Number of birds seen: one.

Sex: unknown.

Plumage: adult.

Locality: Canon City Riverwalk, at
Raynolds Ave. bridge along Arkansas
River, in Canon City.

Elevation: 5332 feet.

Nearest town: Canon City, Colorado.

County: Fremont.

Time observed: 12:15-12:20PM.

Duration of observation: 2 minutes.

Other observers with you:
none.

Other observers who saw the bird independently:

SeEtta Moss of Canon City found this bird on October 15, 1995. Others saw it to the 18th of October. David Pantle saw it on November 15, 1995.

Light conditions:
Excellent.

Optical equipment:
10X40 Baucsh & Lomb Binoculars .

Distance from bird:
20 feet to 30 yards.

Describe the bird's behavior:

I first observed the bird flying toward me from the north side of the Arkansas River to the south side where I was standing. The bird landed in a tree on the south side of river near me. The bird sat there for about a minutes giving me great views. After that the bird flew east under the Raynolds Ave. bridge and landed back on the north side of the river. I saw it hear sitting on a chain link fence and then it flew further back north in private property. The bird a loud peep sound in flight. While the bird was perched it pumped the tail.

Describe the bird:

The size of the bird was around 6 inches. The overall shape was typical flycatcher shaped. The plumage of the bird was an adult. The color pattern is as follows: The bill was black. The eyes were black. The head was all black. The face was black. The nape was black. The wings were black with a silvery color going below the bottom wing bar on each wing. The tail was black. The chin was black. The throat was black. The breast was black. The flanks were black. The belly was white. The under tail coverts were white. The feet and legs were black. The shape of the bill was short typical of flycatchers. The shape of the wings were typical flycatcher shaped. The tail was typical flycatcher shaped. I identified the bird by the phoebe/flycatcher shape, black upper parts and white under parts, by lack of white feathers in tail like juncos.

Describe the bird's song and call if heard:

The bird made a loud sound in flight.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

The bird was observed near a big bridge along the Arkansas River with cottonwoods nearby.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

There is not much that looks like a Black Phoebe.

"Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Junco: This subspecies has a pinkish thicker bill. It also is smaller than phoebes and do not act like phoebes.

Eastern Phoebe: This species is yellow or white underneath and brownish above.

Say's Phoebe: This species is brown above and tan below.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (with out tail): This species has a black cap with grayish color on nape and back.

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

Black Phoebe: I have seen two previous ones in Colorado. Also I have seen many in California and Arizona over the years.

"Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Junco: I have seen many in Colorado each winter.

Eastern Phoebe: I have seen many in Colorado in Baca County and other areas in SE Colorado. Also I have seen them in Kansas and North Dakota.

Say's Phoebe: I have seen many in Colorado every year. I have also seen them in Kansas and Arizona.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher: I have not seen this species.

List books if they helped in your identification:

Not needed, however I did look at *National Geographic Society's Bird's of North America*, after the sighting.

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

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival Signature: Brandon K. Percival

Address: 835 Harmony Drive, Pueblo West, Colorado 81007-2604 (719)-547-3722.

ACCEPT 7-0

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

BLACK PHOEBE
Sayornis nigricansLocation: Canon City River Walk; MacKenzie Street parking area; Fremont County; Canon City, ColoradoDate: October 15, 1995

This bird was discovered by someone else.

I parked at the MacKenzie St. parking area of the Canon City River Walk to see if I could find the previously reported Black Phoebe. It was right where others had said. It was flycatching along a small, deep, heavily overgrown irrigation ditch right below the parking lot. Although the bird was fairly secretive it actively foraged for flying insects along this small ditch. I observed it in bright sun for about ten minutes at about 11:00 a.m. I was about 25 feet away and got excellent views with my B & L Elite 10x40 binoculars.

Description:

This was a small, slender flycatcher about the size and shape of a Say's Phoebe -- about 6" long. It had a simple, striking and unique pattern. It was charcoal black above, without wingbars or other markings. It was black on the chin and throat and upper breast, but the lower breast and belly was white. The white and black met on the chest in an inverted "V". It had a long, slim black tail. The bill was small and wide. The eye was black. It sat quietly for short periods and was silent.

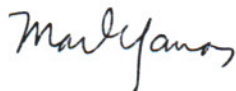
Similar Species:

The slim size and short, wide bill indicate a flycatcher. The only similarly patterned bird, the Slate-colored Junco has a conical pink bill and white edges to the tail. Of flycatchers, the Say's and Eastern phoebes are most similar but are brownish-gray and either orangish-brown or greenish-white -- not black.. Both lack the white belly and the black on the chin, throat and breast.

Experience with Species:

I have seen most similar birds and have seen Black Phoebes many times.

This report was made from memory.



Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001

W. David Pantle
 1826 Flora Court
 Canon City, CO 81212-4577
 (719)-275-8208
 November 28, 1995

Hugh Kingery
 869 Milwaukee St.
 Denver, CO 80206

Re: Late Sighting Black Phoebe November 15
 Canon City Riverwalk

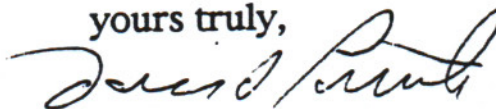
Dear Hugh:

I'm still not sure when, how, and to whom I should report sightings which may be noteworthy. Please let me know if you want something other than a letter for your Regional Reports.

You have perhaps heard about the Black Phoebe on the Canon City Riverwalk, first found by SeEtta Moss on October 14. I saw the bird in the morning and again in the afternoon on October 15 and others also saw it that day. I believe that SeEtta has submitted a report about this to Colorado Bird Records Committee.

Anyway, a month later, on November 15, 1995, I again saw a Black Phoebe along the Canon City Riverwalk. This may be the latest date yet reported for Colorado. It was about a mile west of the earlier sightings, at the Raynolds Street parking lot, and I suspect it was still the same bird. I saw it about 7:30 in the morning with a good view for several seconds. A birding friend in Canon City, Jim Barkley, told me on November 20 that he thought he had also seen a Black Phoebe along the river a few days before, but he didn't recall the exact day. Mark Yeager told me that he has suspected that Black Phoebes winter in Colorado and just haven't been detected then.

yours truly,



David Pantle

cc: Bill Prather, Brandon Percival, Lea Ann Brown, SeEtta Moss

*P.S. CFO 1996 Convention in Estes Park is
 June 14-16 — for your calendar. Joint
 with Western Field Ornithologists.*