

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

ACCEPTED

NEW STATE RECORD \_\_\_\_\_

UNUSUAL RECORD X**Species:** Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)**Date:** 18 July 1996**Number seen:** two**Sex:** ?**Plumage:** Definitive & Juvenal**Locality:** Uravan**Elevation:** about 5050'**Nearest town:** Uravan**County:** Montrose**Time observed:** about 15:40 - 15:50 MDT**Duration of observation:** about 10 minutes

**Description:** After leaving the site at which I had found (along with Doug Faulkner (one of my staff at CBO)) Black Phoebes nesting along the San Miguel thinking that it was the site at which they had been found for a couple years, I drove north. After only another mile, I saw another bridge and this one appeared that it was not private property (which the previous one had been). I think that this second bridge was the "Uravan" site that had had Black Phoebes at it for some time. Anyway, I checked it out and found an adult Black Phoebe tending to a fledgling along the river. The juvenile would perch on the rocks on the edge of the river where the adult bird would feed it. A couple times, the juvenile flew upriver after the adult and perched in the open, again, on riverside

The adult had head, breast, upperparts, wings, and tail black. The adult's belly was white contrasting sharply with the black breast. The juvenile was blackish brown where the adult was black and had rufous edgings to the wing coverts. Its tail was not full-grown. Both birds had dark eyes, bill, and legs and also had white outer webs to the outermost rectrices. When perched, both birds often bobbed their tails.

Similar species eliminated: Black Phoebes are very distinctive-looking birds. All forms of junco are eliminated by color, behavior, and tail pattern. Say's and Eastern phoebes are eliminated by color and pattern. Eastern Kingbird is eliminated by size and tail and underparts patterns (among other factors).

**Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):** A sharp, somewhat "smacky" single note was given by the adult. The juvenile gave some complaining begging calls. The adult's call was similar to that of Eastern Phoebe with which I am very familiar.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species?** I have seen in excess of 100 Black Phoebes in the American southwest and as far south as Costa Rica. I have also seen 100s of both Say's and Eastern phoebes and at least that many of any other North American species at all similar in plumage.

**Light conditions:** sun behind me and to my left

**Optical equipment used:** Zeiss 7x42

**Distance, and how estimated:** estimated closest approach of about 30 feet (to the juvenile)

**Other observers who saw the bird with you:** none

**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** some, but I know not who

**If photographed, type of equipment and film:** I did not photograph

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

**a) at time of observation:** none

**b) after observation:** none

**Reporting observer:** Tony Leukering

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Leukering". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

**Address:** Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Piccadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

**Date report was written:** 7 December 1996 from notes written within a few hours of the sighting