

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS rec'd 3-27-98
SIGHT RECORD FORM

ACCEPTED (7-0)

RESULTS: _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES: Black Phoebe Sayornis nigricans
(COMMON NAME) (SCIENTIFIC NAME)DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: 22 MARCH 1998NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: _____ PLUMAGE: adultEXACT LOCATION: San Miguel CALAMITY BRIDGE
Bridge over River at the intersection of US Hwy 141 and CC RdCOUNTY: Montrose NEAREST TOWN: Naturita / Nucla ELEVATION: 5400 ftLENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 10 minutes TIMES(S) OF OBSERVATION: 1400 hrs

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

Linda Bessette

LIGHT CONDITIONS [QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION]:

Bird was north and east of us when observed.Light conditions good.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

8 x 42B Leica binoculars

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED):

20m - 100m first observed close, then it flew across the river.WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED: YES IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? NOWHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? Linda Bessette (we expect a dot)

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

overall habitat Pinon Juniper. Rabbit brush and willows (small), Salt cedar were present. Riparian river bottom.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

Bird observed perched on a shrubby willow. Bird was flycatching out over the river. Made harsh & loud chip notes when it flew across the river at our approach. Erect posture and perched on exposed outer twigs. The bird nervously flicked its tail upward, often.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE, AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS, AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES, OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

Overall bird was similar in size to Say's Phoebe and very similar in behavior. Only the lower chest and belly were white. The rest of the bird was black. Black eyes and bill were observed. Slightly pointed head shape.

I first saw the bird as we drove down the highway. I was the passenger. The bird was North of us and on our side of the river. We stopped to try and get a photo.

The black and white coloration, the tail flicking, the habitat, the posture and flycatching behavior of the bird convinced me it was a Black Phoebe. The same kind of bird we'd just spent our lunch hour observing.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM: A Dipper is similar in its dark coloration and river habitat—but our bird perched on twigs and had a white lower chest and stomach area. Junco's are similar in coloration but not in behavior. The black and white colors of plumage of Phoebe were clear—not gray. The bill was black and thin at profile. A Junco has a stout seed eating bill and is usually pink to orange. WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

Have observed All similar species of coloration—Junco, Wagtail, Towhee, Dipper commonly.

Observe Say's Phoebes and Black Phoebe yearly on their winter habitat in Overton, NV. See Colorado Phoebes yearly.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

Did not consult field Guide.

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING _____ OR AFTER _____ OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY ☒.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 23 MARCH 98

REPORTING OBSERVER: Kim M. Potter SIGNATURE: KIM M POTTER

SEND REPORT TO: MARK JANOS, 10 SEDUM COURT, PUEBLO, CO 81001