

CFO-RC FILE #: 1998-92

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM**

rec'd 3-27-98 }

ACCEPTED (70)

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 1998

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: _____ PLUMAGE: adult

EXACT LOCATION: Stock Pond Just North Hwy 141. S.W. of Gypsum Gap. Gypsum Gap topo.
UTM: 1250700272 4210033 Between Basin & Slickrock

COUNTY: San Miguel NEAREST TOWN: on US Hwy 141 ELEVATION: 6,000 ft

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 1 hour TIMES(S) OF OBSERVATION: NOON = 11:00 - 12:00

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):
Linda Bessette

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

A Clear day. Saw the bird from many different angles first looking west at the bird. It flew over and landed east. Flew out over the pond several times. Flew over to investigate our presence.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

8x42B Leica binoculars

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): As close as 10 meters at times.

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED: YES IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? NO

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? Linda Bessette

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED: overall habitat is Pinon Juniper and sage. Bird found at stock Pond. Here P.J., OAK, small Cottonwood & rabbit brush comprised the vegetation w/ many bare sand spots

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

Flight was fluttery and glidding. A slightly harsh-metallic chip note was uttered while flying.

Perched - the bird's tail flicked upward often, even when quietly perched & preening

First heard bird singing raising & falling pitch repeated, about a four count

I'm terrible with size, but the bird seemed about say's Phoebe size - maybe plumper and shorter tailed. It held the same erect posture and sallied out over the pond & returned to the same perch many times. Bird cautious but not shy.

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):

"All black w/ nervous tail flicks, white horizontal line across lower chest upper belly. Black above the line white below. Tail rounded and notched in the center. Pointed head like a say's Phoebe. Point behind center of head. Not pronounced like a Jay. Black eyes, small looking black bill.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM: Not Magpie - magpies were busy nearby with their nest - much larger longer tailed & noisier birds. Not a spotted Towhee - This bird was all black or white - no browns or buff colors, it's eye Black.

Not Junco - single bird, no gray - all black or white - no outer white tail feathers in flight

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

Say's Phoebes, Junco's, Towhees, magpies are all common birds I see often.

Yearly we observe Black Phoebes & Say's Phoebes in their winter habitat at Overton, NV. I am familiar w/ Black Phoebes.

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

Did not use field guide for identification. Took field notes.

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

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 24 MARCH 1998

REPORTING OBSERVER: Kim M. Potter

SIGNATURE: Kim M. Potter

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

Kim Potter
440 E. 7th St.
Rifle, CO 81650

Stock Pond PJ Oak
Rabbit brush

Observed bird from east to
west clear day 11:12
in 4 minutes

Pointed head like a
Say's Phoebe

Black eye, Black bill

Tail flicked upward even
when quietly perched &
preening



Stock Pond at bottom
Black Phoebe - calling

... .. raising &
falling pitch repeated
about a four count

All Black w/ nervous tail
Flicks white horizontal line
across lower chest upper
belly Black top white below
rounded and notched
tail



Photo's TAKEN.

END 12:04

1 hour

NOT TO SEE All Black
or white no Browns
or Buff colors present
EYE Black

NOT Junco - single bird
no gray All black or
white - nervous tail
flick

Chip chip note when
it flew never on the
ground A. Flutters
and gliding flight
flew to east some
over me. No white
outer tail feathers

Field Notes

3-22-98

11:05 —

Sixk Pond $\approx 30 \times 20$ m
Bare sandy dirt at
mouth, many bare
dirt banks around pond
very loud distinct &
slightly harsh-metallic
Chip note when flying.

I sat quietly in the open
Phoebe was annoyed. Few
to several perches around
me to observe me. Did
not leave the pond.

Bird flew out Flycatcher, by
over the pond and returned
to same perch. Eye posture

Not Magpie, too small
tail too short. Magpies
at nest across from
pond.

28-50. 5/13/12

50-50