

Dwyer

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At about 2:00 P.M. August 9, 1981 driving north on the road that borders Cone Marsh on the west, I saw a bird I didn't immediately recognize. It was perched on the west side of the road in a dead tree that had been bulldozed over. The tree was close to a fence in a cornfield. I stopped my car about 25-30 yards away. I viewed the bird from its front for about 15 seconds using 8X40 binoculars. It was smaller than a robin with a robin-like bill and a deeply forked tail. The tail was about the length of the head and body or shorter. The belly and sides of breast were orangeish pink and the center and upper breast and throat were white. The wings appeared dark gray or black and the head was a medium gray. When I tried to get closer the bird immediately flew out of sight low over the corn. I searched about an hour for it with no luck. The forked tail, pinkish sides & belly, size and bill shape convince me that this was a Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher. The bird appeared darker than in the field guides. This may have been due to wet feathers, as it was a rainy, overcast day and drizzling at the time I viewed the bird. The length of the tail was somewhat shorter than an adult female's and much shorter than an adult male's but the extent and deeper shade of pink suggests an adult rather than an immature.

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