

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Say's Phoebe 2. Number 1
3. Location Linn Co. Rd. E 28 about 1 mile W. of Waubeek
4. Date: June 21, 1978 5. Time Bird Seen: 11:30, again 11:45 AM
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
Tyrant flycatcher, larger than E. Phoebe, smaller than Redwinged Blackbird (by direct comparison). Slender black beak, no eye-ring or wingbars. Wings and tail uniformly dark gray to black in flight. Head and back dark gray, dusky chest gradually blending into dull salmon-orange abdomen and crissum. Erect posture when sitting, tail and wings relatively long. Rectal bristles clearly seen. Black legs.
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: either sitting on snags or making dives under concrete bridge and returning to exposed position
9. Habitat - general: farmland
specific: trees along water-filled creek crossed by concrete bridge
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
E. Phoebe: color of abdomen and crissum, size. E. Kingbird: no white edge to tail, underparts not white. Duller color of back.
11. Distance (how measured)? est. 30-50 ft.
12. Optical equipment: 7x35 Leitz Trioid binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Bright sun overhead, bird NNW of observer; good viewing conditions
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Seen many times in Arizona, Texas and other western states
15. Other observers: — (not at the same time)
16. Did the others agree with your identification? — yes (see 17)
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
Discovered by Fred Thompson, Marion, 6/17, seen again by him 6/20. He alerted me to the bird's presence on the phone.
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
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19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? little over 1 hr

Signature: A. H. Haller Address: R#6

Date: 6/21/78 City, State: LOWA CITY, IA 52240