

Documentation

- Say's Phoebe, 1 individual
- Observed on May 7 at 7.30 a.m. near bridge across Rock River, about 12 miles due west of Sioux Center, in Sioux Co., Iowa. I observed the bird for about 3 minutes. It flew over a field, perched on a short corn stalk, and flew off. I was standing on a higher point, above the field, so the bird's flight was at eye-level. The general habitat is a mixture of open fields, rolling hills, and woods along the Rock River. The bird was observed in an open area. I was alone.
- As the bird flew I noticed its rusty underparts, dark tail, and darkish head, pale back. As it perched on the stalk it wagged its tail.
- The bird was obviously not a Robin, with which it could possibly be confused. The brick-red of the Robin is quite different. The Robin is also larger.
- The weather was good, partly cloudy with NW wind, about 10 mph. Temperature about 55 F. I used 8x40 biboculars.
- I am quite familiar with the Say's Phoebe, as I used to live in California where it is quite common. Interestingly, in early January of this year I saw numerous Say's Phoebes in southern California, where I was spending some time.
- The Say's Phoebe is to be expected, as it has occurred in Plymouth Co. just to the south of us, where it also bred. See September, 1977, issue of Iowa Bird Life.



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