

SPECIES: Say's Phoebe

NUMBER: 2

LOCATION: S. E. of Missouri Valley, Iowa, Boyer River bridge on County  
Road F66, Harrison County.

DATE: August 25, 1978

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

DESCRIPTION: The birds were very slender. The breast and belly were rusty. The back and back of head were brownish giving the appearance of rusty coloration, but more muted than chest and belly. The head had the crest appearance of a flycatcher. The tail looked as if it belonged on another bird because it was so black. No wing bars or eye ring were observed on these birds.

VOICE:

VOICE: Not heard.

BEHAVIOR: That of a flycatcher. Lit in tops of the willows on the bank of the river. The birds stayed ahead as I followed them down the river dike. They perched in an almost perfectly verticle position.

HABITAT: General--river.

Specific--small willow and other small trees and rather high grasses along the river dike. The bird was first observed in this habitat from the river bridge.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The female Vernillion flycatcher--streaking was absent.

DISTANCE: Closest observation approximately 25 feet (guessed).

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: 10x50 Bushnell binoculars 8x20 Nikon binoculars

LIGHT: full sun

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: None

OTHER OBSERVERS: Ardyth Newberry, Santa Barber, California

AGREE: Yes

OTHER IDENTIFICATIONS INDEPENDENTLY MADE: Ardyth Newberry

BOOKS AND ADVICE CONSULTED: Ardyth Newberry has wide previous experience with this bird and her advice was valuable.

In the field--Robbin's Birds of North America  
Peterson's A Field Guide to the Birds: Eastern  
Land and Water Birds

At home study--Audubon Society's Field Guide to North American  
Birds: Western Region  
National Geographic Society's Song and Garden  
Birds of North America

I thought the pictures in the Audubon Society Field Guide to  
North American Birds and the National Geographic books did not  
do this bird justice. Robbins Birds of North America has the  
best illustration.

I don't feel these books influenced my description.  
I feel they confirmed it.

HOW LONG? Approximately 12 hours after first sighting the bird.

Ruth Gochenour  
166 North West St.  
Missouri Valley, Iowa