

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? ALDER FLYCATCHER How many? 1Location? Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City, Johnson CountyType of habitat? Thick stand of medium size (15'-40') deciduous trees with a dense, moist understory of shrubs. At the edge of large woods.When? date(s): 3 June 1982 time: 10:50 to 10:55 AMWho? your name and address: Carl J. Bendorf 825 7th Ave., Iowa City, IA. 52240

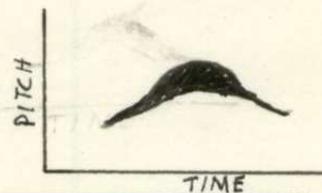
others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

others before or after you: five Alders seen in park five days earlier-Tom Kent

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Had just seen an unidentified (silent) Empidonax which disappeared into the woods. As I stood watching and listening, from behind me came a strange call. It was repeated perhaps ten times at intervals of about ten seconds. The quality and timbre of the call were very similar to that of a Willow Flycatcher. I had heard a number of Willow's this spring, and while the quality of the note was similar, the form of it was much different. Whereas, the Willow begins with an explosive first note (or syllable) and concludes with an emphatic second and lower pitched note, the bird now calling seemed to be one slurred "weee-ooo". This note was quite brief, but it began and immediately slurred up and then back down in pitch. Obviously, at this point I was thinking of Alder Flycatcher. The bird stopped calling and could not be relocated.

Below is a crude depiction of the call. As the line grows wider, the volume seemed to rise. The pitch is shown as the note rises and falls.

Similar species and how eliminated: Discussed above.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Hearing conditions were good-little background noise. Bird estimated to be 100 feet away.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Very familiar with Willow. Heard a probable Alder several years ago.

References and persons consulted before writing description:  
none

How long before field notes made? 2 hours this form completed? 2 hours

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