

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Say's Phoebe 2. Number 4
3. Location 7 mi e. of Akron, Plymouth Co, IA
4. Date: 29 June 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 1⁴⁰ to 2⁴⁰
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):
Phoebe size and actions. Dull appearing birds - grey above, slightly rusty below. No white in tail. No wing bars.
Two presumably young, but did not see them being fed.
Photos and recording taken.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Two note whistle
8. Description of behavior: Actively catching insects. Landing on fence, posts, dead limbs and in other trees
9. Habitat - general: Old farmstead with open valley surrounded by corn and bean fields. A few large cottonwoods and many smaller trees.
specific: Old buildings open.
1 mi north, 1/4 mile e. of Eldon Bryant farm - private property.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Other phoebes, Western Kingbird
11. Distance (how measured)?
20-50 ft (guess)
12. Optical equipment:
8x40 binoculars, 750 mm Celestron lens
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
clear, sun mostly behind me.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Seen once in Iowa, several times in west
15. Other observers:
Eldon Bryant
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
none
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
Dictated notes immediately. Copies 4 days later.
- Signature: Thomas H. Kent Address: 211 Richards St
- Date: 7/3/81 City, State: Iowa Co, IA 52240