

**DOCUMENTATION FORM**  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Say's Phoebe How many? 1

Location? NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 16, Eagle Twp., Sioux County (5 mi. NE of Hawarden, Iowa)

Type of Habitat? open, rolling farmland

When? date(s): June 4, 1987 time: 8:35 to 8:36 AM

Who? your name and address: Doug Harr, Box 65, Larchwood, Iowa 51241

Others with you: none

Others before or after you: none

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

a 6-7 inch typical flycatcher (w/slightly raised crown feathers). Dark forehead crown and tail, grayish-buff back, cinnamon or rust-colored undersides, fading to a grayish breast and neck. Dark bill, eyes and legs (legs appeared black in full sunlight). Sat for an estimated 20-25 seconds on a telephone wire in completely open cropfield area. Some hayfields and a bridge not far away (on breeding bird survey route at time of sighting, and I could not stop to investigate bridge at time or later). (Investigated for nest in July--found none)

Bird seemed to fan tail a bit, with a slight but barely notable dipping movement. Song was heard, but rather hard to describe--perhaps a little like an indigo bunting but not nearly as long or sweet a phrasing. Bird then flew straight away until out of sight. It did not appear to be pursuing food, thus did not dart, as I might expect a flycatcher to move, but did exhibit a slight dipping to flight.

**Similar species; how eliminated:**

Eastern Phoebe--a completely different color; voice was not that of E. Phoebe

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? N/A  
If yes, explain:

**Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.**

Sun in east, bird viewed towards west southwest, in full light.  
Estimated 80-90' away at sighting; Viewed with 7x50 Bushnell Explorer II Binoc's.

**Previous experience with species and similar ones:**

Have seen bird in western South Dakota and photographed same in New Mexico. I'm familiar with most of common tyranids in NW Iowa.

**References and persons consulted before writing description:**

(after field notes made): consulted Peterson and Robbins Field Guides; also Audubon Master Field Guide and my own reference photo from New Mexico

How long before field notes made? 2 minutes this form completed? 6 hours

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).