

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, juvenile How many? 1Location? Approx 2 miles s Pleasant Creek S.P. NW LINN CoType of habitat? cut hayfieldWhen? date(s): 31 July 1995 time: 12:40 pm to 1:00 pmWho? your name and address: DAVID L. DANKERT 806 15th Ave SW #5 Cedar Rapids, IA.

others with you: _____

others before or after you: _____

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.

Observing the bird when perched length was approximately three times the size of the A. Goldfinch that was perched close by. Body mass was about the size of an A. Robin. Back appeared slightly darker than the throat, breast, and belly. Overall color appeared white to a slightly light gray. Wings were black. Tail was held parallel to the ground and was black. Tail was thin but not exceptionally long.

To be quite honest, I thought I was observing an albino of some species, due to the overall white appearance of this bird. Watching the bird when it was on the ground and observing its flycatching technique and behavior, (always returning to its ground perch) coupled with the general size and white appearance; my best conclusion was a juvenile Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Some field guides suggest confusion can be made between juvenile Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Western Kingbird juvenile but the head of the bird I observed was whiter.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

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

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? _____

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

Tom -

Sorry on lateness of this one.

Dunkert sent in details with summer report. I asked for documentation and got this after I had finished report. It isn't much better on telling what the bird was.

Jim