

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species scissor-tailed flycatcher 2. Number 1
3. Location East Amawa, Iowa Co IA
4. Date: 26 April 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 6:40 PM to 6:55 PM

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):

size + shape of body similar to e. kingbird. Color of body pale grey, nearly white. wings brown. Crimson wash in axillaries, shading to yellow on belly. Bill short and dark. Tail as long as body, or a bit longer, forked, dark, nearly black with pale outer margin. Tail often spread in flight.

7. Description of voice, if heard: —

8. Description of behavior: flew rapidly from perch to perch, on bushes, trees, or ground; from perch would make several sallies after insects, returning to perch several times

9. Habitat - general: pasture with scattered multiflora rose, bordered by a stand of saplings and two groves of large trees. (over)

specific: stream valley, with pastures, woodlots.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: long forked tail, pale head, crimson axillaries rule out forked-tailed flycatcher, only similarly-built species

11. Distance (how measured)?

30' - 100 yds (est)

12. Optical equipment:

8x40 binocs
25x60 scope

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

sun behind obs.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

have seen many scissortails in TX and FLA.

15. Other observers: —

C.S. Newton

16. Did the others agree with your identification? —

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? notes taken during sighting; transcribed 5-23-81

Signature: Michael C. Newton

Address: 408 Wales St

Date: 5-23-81

City, State: Iowa City IA 52240

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species: Sciurus h. tristis
2. Location: East of Ames, Iowa, Co IA
3. Date: 26 April 1981
4. Time Bird Seen: 6:40 PM to 6:55 PM

5. 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 characters, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

8. behavior:

before moving to a new one a short distance away. Very active, never ~~remains~~ remaining at a perch for long. Twice made long flights that carried it out of sight, to return w 10-15'. In trees, tended to perch halfway up, only once in top.

6. Description of voice, if heard:
7. Description of behavior: the rapidly form part to part, or bushes, trees, or ground; few birds were seen after insects returning to part several times
8. Habitat - general: general with scattered multiflorous rose, particularly (some) a stand of tall grasses and the grasses of large trees.
9. Specific: Sciurus h. tristis
10. Specially appearing species which are eliminated by questions 5, 7 & 8. Explain:
11. Distance (how measured?)
12. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
13. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
14. Other observers:
15. Did the others agree with your identification?
16. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
17. How, if illustration and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

18. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? Notes follow
Date: 5-22-81
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