

DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY  
SIGHT RECORD - SPRING 1981

- ✓ 1. WESTERN KINGBIRD
2. ONE
3. 3.5 MI. S.W. OF PLEASANTVILLE, IOWA - WEST MARION CO.
4. 1 MAY 1981
5. 1000 - 1015
6. THE BIRD WAS THE SIZE AND GENERAL SHAPE OF THE EASTERN KINGBIRD. THE GENERAL COLOR WAS A GRAY-BROWN BACK WITH DARK WINGS AND TAIL. THE BILL WAS A SHINY BLACK. THE THROAT WAS WHITE AND LED TO A YELLOW COLOR ON THE BELLY. THE TAIL WAS A COLOR MUCH DARKER THAN THE BACK. THE WHITE OUTER EDGE OF THE TAIL FEATHERS WAS HARD TO SEE IF THE BIRD WAS SITTING, BUT ONCE IT FLEW AND THE TAIL WAS FANNED OUT, THE WHITE WAS EASILY SEEN. THE BACK WAS A DULL GRAY-BROWN COLOR. THE HEAD HAD A FLAT APPEARANCE AND WAS A MEDIUM TO LIGHT GRAY IN COLOR. THE LEGS WERE NOT CLEARLY SEEN.
7. A VERY WEAK, HIGH-PITCHED CHATTERING.
8. THE BIRD WOULD SIT VERY QUIETLY ON AN EXPOSED PERCH AND CATCH AN INSECT EVERY 1-2 MINUTES. WHEN IT FLEW IT WOULD RARELY RETURN TO THE SAME PERCH AND OFTEN FLEW TO ANOTHER TREE. THE BIRD SEEMED TO PREFER DEAD BRANCHES IN WHITE OAKS.

9. SCATTERED WHITE OAKS, COTTONWOODS AND BLACK LOCUST ALONG A SMALL STREAM WITH AN UNDERSTORY OF MULTIFLORA ROSE AND BLUEGRASS PASTURE.

10. EASTERN KINGBIRD, GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER  
THE DIFFERENT MARKINGS AND COLOR OF THE TAIL BACK, BELLY, AND HEAD. THE GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER SHOWS TOO MUCH RED IN THE TAIL AND WING TIPS AND HAS A BIGGER HEAD. THE VOICE ALSO HELPED TO SEPERATE THESE BIRDS.

11. 20-50 FEET ESTIMATED

12. 7X50 BINNOCULARS

13. THE SKY WAS 50% OVERCAST WITH THE SUN TO MY RIGHT AND BEHIND ME.

14. I HAD NEVER BEFORE SEEN THIS BIRD, BUT I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE OTHER SIMILAR SPECIES.

15. NONE

16. -

17. -

18. BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA ROBBINS (ETAL).  
THE BIRD I SAW HAD DARKER WINGS AND THE WHITE ON THE TAIL WAS NOT AS CLEAR AS THOSE IN THE BOOK.

19. 30 MINUTES

Robert Thurlburg

RRI Pleasantville Iowa

1 May 1981