

DIXON

SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES AND/OR SPECIES IN HIGH NUMBERS

~~CBC NAME:~~ ~~COMPILER:~~ ~~CBC DATE:~~

OBSERVER WRITING THIS ACCOUNT & DATE: Mark Dixon
RR 2, Box 963
Waukegan IA 50263

Date of observation: May 15, 1983 Time: 3:45 Weather: Sunny, mild Sky Cover: Clear

Duration of observation: 5 minutes Bird/Sun Orientation: sun behind observer

Exact Location: Northeast Madison County, near Cummings - Winterset highway, 7 miles south of Booneville, about 15 miles southwest of Des Moines Habitat: perched on a barbed wire fence by a plowed field, open country, farms in the area

Observers & Optical Equipment: Mark Dixon, was easily identified by naked eye, but was also observed through 7x35 Extra-wide angle Bushnell binoculars and a 20x Bushnell spotting scope

PLEASE INCLUDE ALL NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT DETAILS OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION, AS SEEN IN THE FIELD. REMEMBER THAT AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH IS AN EXCELLENT MEANS OF FURTHER DOCUMENTATION. BE THOROUGH AND PRECISE WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

SPECIES: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher NUMBER, AGE, SEX: 1, immature?

Distance from bird(s): 30 feet Relative size of bird: robin-sized (without counting the tail)

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line etc.): pearly gray all over the head

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color etc.): black eye

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES: black LEGS & FEET: black

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts etc.): pearly gray back, darker gray on wings, tail was very long (about the length of the body) was very deeply forked, was black with white edges on top

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum etc.): basically white below, pearly gray on throat, no pink was visible

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers; color pattern; shape etc.): tail very deeply forked, very long, inner feathers black, outer edges white (on top), under-tail was white with black on the end

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges etc.): wings were dark gray on top, pointed end, fairly long but not extremely long

VOCALIZATION: none

BEHAVIOR: perched fairly parallel on wire, flitted into air and relanded on wire, later landed on ground about 30 feet farther back in field. It was seen in the company of 2 Eastern Kingbirds.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: I have observed this species in Texas before and am positive about its identity. I observed for about 5 minutes then went to get Eugene Armstrong, who lives 2.5 miles from sighting. Were unable to find bird upon returning. Details may appear sketchy but only because I observed it for such a short time and was already completely positive what it was. No other species is even remotely similar

tail
deeply forked

drawn from memory

head, back and chest
light peery gray

wings darker gray

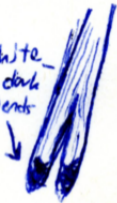


white belly

tail top view - mostly dark

tail very long and deeply forked

white
with dark
(black) ends



tail under view