

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Western Kingbird How many? 1Location? SE 1/4 of Hardin Co.Type of habitat? Rows of corn on one side of fence, fresh cut hay pasture on other sideWhen? date(s): June 1, 1985 time: 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (very approximate)Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Eugene and Eloise Armstrongothers 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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

As we were driving the gravel roads, Eugene noticed this bird quite close to the road and looking into the sun. By the time we stopped, the bird was on a fence about 100 yards away looking out over a pasture. It would dart back and forth from the wire on the fence row after insects or worms in the corn field and return to its spot that it ^{had} just left. The light conditions were not the best as we were looking into the sun. We watched for 30-40 minutes and were quite certain it was a Western Kingbird. But just to be positive I took the 20X scope and walked to within 25-30 yards of it and had a dark green background to get real good color on the bird. The bird had a gray head, a whitish throat, yellowish belly, and a yellow rump. It had a dark tail and a dark, black line through its eye. The bird appeared to have a flattened head, was silent all the time we were there, and appeared to sit somewhat horizontally on the wires.

Similar species and how eliminated: Great-crested Flycatcher has a reddish tail, a greenish crown, shouldn't be expected in a pasture area, and usually is very vocal.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Partly sunny and looking into sun much of the time, distances estimated,

7X35 Binoculars and 20X Scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen some Western Kingbirds before and lots of Great-crested Flycatchers.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds.

How long before field notes made? (next day) this form completed? July 17, 1985

June 2nd

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