

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Western Kingbird 2. Number: one
  3. Location about 3½ miles north of Hendricksons Marsh in Southeast Story County, Iowa
  4. Date: 19 May 1985 5. Time Bird seen: abt 1:45 pm CDST  
to \_\_\_\_\_
  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):  
Flycatcher of kingbird size; lite brownish gray head & perhaps very slightly darker back; wings darker; tail black; upper breast & throat pale gray; belly yellow.  
(When I saw the bird I immediatly recognized it as a Western Kingbird and drove on down the road thinking it was nice to add another bird to my Story County 1985 bird list; finally after I'd gone about a quarter mile on down the road, I thot this is Iowa not South Dakota! This is a rare bird here. I backed down the road a half mile but couldn't find it again.)
  7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
  8. Description of behavior: sitting on electric wire & flew off accross road
  9. Habitat - general: field on both sides of road with very short corn.  
specific:
  10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
Eastern Kingbird - has black head, white terminal band on tail & breast & belly are white.  
Crested Flycatcher - has some rust in wings, a very rusty tail, brown head & back, gray upper breast.
  11. Distance (how measured)? perhaps 20 ft at closest 12. Optical equipment:  
none
  13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
was driving south; bird was sitting on wires on east - flew across road (below sun) to west
  14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Have seen thousands of them in South Dakota. Saw one near Ames about 25 years ago - The
  15. Other observers: actual date was 28 May 1960 just east of Ames on old hi way 30.  
none
  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:  
Field Guide To the Birds - Peterson
  19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
notes with 5 minutes.
- Signature: *Carl Martens* Address: 1120 Marston  
Date: 20 May 1985 City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010