

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Western Kingbird 2. Number 1  
3. Location Cone Marsh - 1/2 mile east of bridge  
4. Date: 9-3-78 5. Time Bird Seen: 10<sup>00</sup> Am to 10<sup>05</sup> (approx)

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):

A flycatcher similar in size or slightly smaller than 5 nearby Eastern Kingbirds. Position while sitting on wire seemed more horizontal than Eastern Kingbird. Overall gray-tan with blacker indistinct eye stripe. Throat white. Belly + under tail yellow. Long tail with white outer tail feathers. Bird flew from wire twice to catch insects.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard

8. Description of behavior: similar to Eastern Kingbird

9. Habitat - general: flat farmland

specific: along gravel road with corn field on one side and melon field on other side

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

Eastern Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher are the only remotely similar species that could occur in the area

11. Distance (how measured)?

30 ft (estimate)

12. Optical equipment:

8x40 Leitz binocular, 20x Bausch & Lomb eyepiece

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): on Bushnell scope  
Hazy sky (bright). I was to south and east of bird.

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

Seen previously in the west

15. Other observers:

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:

Robbins et al. Description is what I saw.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 hrs

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Date: 9-6-78 City, State: Iowa City, Iowa 52240