

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Western Kingbird 2. Number: 1

3. Location nr Croton, IA; Lee Co.

4. Date: 6/9/79 5. Time Bird seen: ca 9:30 AM to ca 9:35

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):

Size and proportions similar to that of western kingbird. Head and back pale blue-grey; side of head paler with a darker area through the eye; wings and tail dark brownish; outer tail feathers white; breast and belly pale yellow, tending to whitish on belly.

7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard

8. Description of behavior: Perched on fence line; made several short flights, returning to fence, then made a longer flight and was lost to view.

9. Habitat - general: wire fence at edge of pasture.
specific: area of mixed woods, pasture, cropland

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
white outer tail feathers and lack of notch in tail eliminate other yellow-breasted kingbirds; heavy build and lack of rufous in tail eliminate myarchius flycatchers

11. Distance (how measured)? 70 feet (est) 12. Optical equipment: 8x40 binoc.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
partly cloudy day; sun was to one side of line between observer and bird

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Have seen many western kingbirds in Kansas, Neb, Colorado, Arizona, Texas; also familiar with Cassin's and Tropical kingbirds (Texas, Calif); also all US Myarchius

15. Other observers:
T. Kent, J. Huntington

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
none

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

Notes were taken on the spot; this is a transcript Address: 408 Wales St, Iowa City IA

Signature *Mitchell*

Date: 8 August 1979 City, State: _____