

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Western Kingbird How many? 1Location? West Ames, IA.Type of habitat? mixed deciduous, bordering on open field at edge of urban areaWhen? date(s): 11/3/84 time: 1400 to duskWho? your name and address: Burt Shephard, 803 Delaware Ave, Amesothers with you: wife

others before or after you: _____

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.

about 8" long, upright posture, gray head, yellow-green chest and belly, black wings and tail. Outer edge of tail feathers white. Throat light yellow green, almost white. No obvious eyering. Bill straight, broad, intermediate length, dark gray color. No voice heard. Observed catching one insect on ground, drinking water from bird bath, rest of time in trees.

May have obtained several good photographs of bird.

Similar species and how eliminated: scarlet tanager - shape of bill, gray on head and white edge on tail feathers. Other kingbirds - chest color, white outer tail feathers.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny, within 20 feet of kitchen window, viewed with eyes and 600mm telephoto lens.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: None with Western have observed Eastern kingbirds, phoebes, and Empidonax flycatchers many times.

References and persons consulted before writing description: J.J. DinsmoreHow long before field notes made? 2 days this form completed? 2 days

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