


DOCUMENTATION FORM

Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species Western Kingbird
 Location Cerro Gordo Co. 2 1/2 mi. S.W. of Plymouth
 Habitat fence rows, corn stalk fields, power lines
 Date(s) 17 & 18 May, 1992 Time seen at any time during these 2 days
 Name and Address Curt Nelson RR4 Box 216 Mason City Ia 50401
 Other observers Marty Pauley Genevieve Nelson Jim & Jan Walter, Rita Gorbstein Caroline Fisher

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 behavior and voice.

On Sunday, after a major storm from the south west on the previous day I saw a Kingbird sitting on a fence line. The pale gray head and breast and bright yellow belly caught my eye. During the 2 days it stayed we had good looks at the tail. It was jet black with white outer edges.  There was no white or light color on the tip.

It was seen by several people, sometimes by itself and sometimes with Eastern Kingbirds

Similar species and how eliminated:

Great crested flycatcher. - head rounded & pale gray, tail black ~~not~~ redish brown

Cassin's Kingbird - tail black with white outer edges and no white or buff color on the tip of the tail.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? No.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Clean sunny days, as close as 50 ft. (est) at times
Bausch & Lomb 9x35 Zepher,
Kowa TSN4 40x

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I've seen several in Iowa and in western states

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? 15 min. How long before this form completed? 1 day