

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Muscivora forfic) How many? 1Location? N.E. of Waubensie S.P. on gravel road.Type of habitat? On edge of Loess Hills, on telephone wire between heavy woods and open fieldWhen? date(s): April 24, 1982 time: 10:30 to \_\_\_\_\_ for a few minutesWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Ross Silcock, Bob Myersothers before or after you: None

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.

Highway 2 through Waubensie S.P. was closed to the East of the Park. We took a detour route to get to the park to get the Louisiana Waterthrush. Bob Myers was driving. As we came over the first hill from Highway 2 we all three noticed the long-tailed bird ahead on the telephone line at about the same time. We stopped about \_\_\_\_\_ yards from the bird and set up a telescope to get a better view. Looking at the bird through the scope at 25X was quite a sight. The bird we saw was a light gray color on the head and back with black wings and a black tail that was about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the body length. The bird had a white throat and belly. The lower belly was a light pink color with a very bright rosy red patch at the bend of the wings. The legs and feet looked very small compared to the rest of the bird. The feet and bill was black. A real "beauty"!! The bird did make one fly catching foray and returned to its perch on the wire. When we attempted to get closer to get closer pictures the bird flew over the woods to the west and could not be found again. I did get 2 photos of the bird at long range with my 400mm telephoto. You can definitely tell it is a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher from a long way off. No call or song was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: Western Kingbird is darker on head and back and has yellow breast and belly and lacks the extremely long tail feathers that this bird had. Eastern Kingbird ~~is~~ has a dark gray head and back and also lacks the long 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: Very good viewing conditions, sunny. Viewed from approx. 60 yds through Bushnell Spacemaster telescope with 25X eyepiece and 7X35mm B+L Roof Prism binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have no previous experience with Scissor-tailed. Have lots of experience with Eastern Kingbird and quite a few sightings of western.  
References and persons consulted before writing description: None.

How long before field notes made? 3 hrs. this form completed? 1 1/2 days

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