

SCISSOR TAILED FLYCATCHER

July 21, 1984 3 p.m.

Lewis and Clark State Park
Monona County, Iowa

- Description: One bird; an immature. Head, cheeks, back and throat light gray. Black lores. Bill was black straight, and fairly heavy for the flycatcher family. Belly and undertail coverts were off-white or very pale gray. Wings were charcoal-gray. They had pale edgings which suggested very faint narrow wing bars. The tail was long and slender, but only about $2/3$ the length of an adult. No pink coloration was seen either when the bird was sitting or flying.
- Behavior: Perched on wires. After observing him for some minutes, I walked closer, flushing him and observed the "scissor" action of the tail when the bird was in flight.
- Habitat: Utility wires over croplands. This is bottomland between the two arm of Blue Lake. East Blue Lake is bordered by Lewis & Clark State Park. West Blue Lake is almost totally marsh(cattails) and is bordered by croplands.
- Observers: Tanya Bray , Don Bray
- Equipment: 7 x 26 binoculars
- Distance: 25 feet

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