

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 2. Number 1
3. Location near E. Amana, Iowa County, Iowa
4. Date: 26 April 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 2:40 to 3:00 (est)
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):
- "The body of the bird was approximately the size of a Kingbird but tail as long almost as the body. Head, neck, back were very light gray. The black bill and black line through the eye. The wings were darker gray-brown with many fine white streaks. The tail in flight showed white outer edges, very deep forking into inner black lining. Sometimes the tail looked all black in flight or sitting. In flight there was red spots in the axillae. Unable to observe any color on the sides."
7. Description of voice, if heard: silent
8. Description of behavior: Perching in trees and on fence wire. Towering flight with tail spread.
9. Habitat - general: pasture with trees and small shrubs
specific: 1 mi. E. 1 1/2 mi. N. 1/8 mi. E of East Amana
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
none
11. Distance (how measured)? 30-100 yards (paced)
12. Optical equipment: 8440 Leitz Trinovid 750 mm Celestron lens on Olympus OM 2 camera.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Sun mostly behind observers
photos taken in B&W
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Seen in Texas
15. Other observers: Call Bendorf, Thomas Shires, Rick Hollis and 2 couples from Amana.
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?
Dictated at completion of observation. Copied 5 hours later
- Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St
- Date: 26 Apr 1981 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240