

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Scissor-tailed Flycatcher How many? 1

Location? 1 mi East and about 2½ miles south of Fontanelle

Type of habitat? small trees and brush near railroad track

When? date(s): 21 June 1983 time: 1400 to 1500

Who? your name and address: Scott Felker, 2323 Knapp St, #1, Ames, 50010 (ISU undergrad--JJD)

others with you: Kevin Blazek and ?? Both were from Adair County Conservation Board

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.

Definite long, forked tail, Faint pink seen on underside. Head was "flycatcher like" in shape. Bird was about 40 m away and in good view. Did not fly between trees often. Overall body size was about size of robin (excluding tail). Overall coloration was light with a darker back.

Similar species and how eliminated: Western Kingbird--above bird had very long tail and did not have yellowish underside.

Eastern Kingbird--considerably larger and lighter colored

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Bright sunlight, estimate of 40 m (ocular), 7 x 35 binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen most (if not all) large flycatchers in northern midwest

References and persons consulted before writing description: Robbins (field guide) and J. J. Dinsmore

How long before field notes made? same day this form completed? 27 Oct 1983

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