

Species: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Number: one

Location: 1 mile north of St. Anthony, Marshall Co.

Date: 29 April 1987

Observer: Georgia Bryan, Dept. Animal Ecology, ISU, Ames

Notes: The bird was sitting on a utility wire where Bryan had the opportunity to observe it at leisure, almost directly overhead. The bird made several typical flycatcher type forays, hovering, and then returning to the wire. It was roughly kingbird in size, exclusive of the tail and was gray in color on much of the upperparts and light colored underneath. The two most obvious characteristics were the extremely long outer tail feathers that were especially noted when the bird flew or hovered and the presence of salmon colored wing linings when the bird was in flight.

Notes by Dinsmore:

I heard about this bird last spring when I was in Massachusetts and I encouraged Mark Dixon to get Georgia to send it in/put on bird line etc. Nothing was done then so I talked to Georgia this fall and got what details I could from her. She is a graduate student here and taught in our bird study course last spring so I think she could certainly identify the bird. Certainly the two field characteristics (long tail, wing linings) that she immediately recalled will identify the bird. She had the date and location in her field notes and gave them to me this fall. I realize much time has passed but with such an obvious bird, this shouldn't be that much of a problem.