

Say's Phoebe
16 May 1992
Cone M., Louisa Co., IA
*James Durbin
IBL 62:78, 63:70

Record Number: 92-25
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

James Durbin, 1460 Douglas Ct., Marion, IA 52302 (6/30/93)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 62:78
Records Committee: IBL 63:70

VOTE: 1 A-D, 6 NA

NA, I feel document lacks enough details of plumage and size of bird to be acceptable.

NA, Description is very generalized and rather vague. I am also hesitant about identification being made some time after sighting.

A-D, Despite brevity of description, this appears to be a correct record. Not only do the field marks support the ID, but the observer has some experience with the species, and the date falls within the expected migration interval.

NA, I can't identify these birds from the description. The habitat, behavior, and overall coloration might fit female Northern Oriole. Why were these birds not recognized and reported by Cal Knight? The circumstances don't sound right for Say's Phoebe.

NA, The only description is that of a bird with dark back, blackish tail and orangish breast and flycatcher shaped. There is no description of size or discussion of similar species. Description is not diagnostic of Say's Phoebe and could even be an American Robin or 1st year Vermillion Flycatcher? This record is not beyond reasonable doubt.

NA, While this is possibly a Say's Phoebe, I feel that more details are needed to evaluate this bird. I wish I had information on throat color, back color, head color, bill color, and relative size comparison. A Say's Phoebe is more orangish or tawny or cinnamon on its belly area rather than its breast area.

92-25

SAMPLE RARITIES REPORT FORM

SPECIES: SAY'S PHOEBE
Number of Birds: 2 Sex: M Age:
PLACE CONE MARSH

DATE(S) of your observations: Times: Total duration:
5-16-92 9:00AM 10MIN
Earlier/later dates by others, if known:
First and last dates, if known:

OBSERVER (BLOCK CAPITALS): JAMES DURBIN
Address: Telephone: 319-377-7199
1400 DALLAS CT
MARIETTA, IA 52302

Other observers (BLOCK CAPITALS):
CAL KNIGHT

Who found it?: IDIO Who first identified it?:
I DID

Who is also reporting it, if known?:

If dead, is it preserved?: Where?:

Was it photographed?: NO

Photographer (and address, if known):

Optical aids used: B POWER BINOC. Distance from bird: 60FT

Previous experience with the species:
1 TIME IN COLORADO

Similar species considered: OTHER FLYCATERS

Weather conditions: SKUNNY

Was it trapped for banding?:

Date, if known:

Bander, if known:

Band number:

DESCRIPTION: Include an account of the relevant circumstances of the observation and a detailed description of the bird(s), preferably based on notes taken at the time of the observation before reference to books. Attach original field notes where available. Attach extra sheets if required.

WAS WALKING ON DIKE AT SOUTH END OF CONE MARSH BY PARKING LOT, WHEN WE SAW TWO BIRDS THAT WERE FLYCATERS HATED FLY INTO WILLOWS, BIRD SAT IN PLAIN VIEW FOR COUPLE'S MINUTES THEN FLEW INTO ALFALFA FIELD WHERE THEY PERCHED ON TALLEST PLANTS, THE BIRDS WERE DARK ON BACK WITH BLACKISH TAIL, THE BREAST WAS ORANGISH. CHECKED PETERSEN EASTERN BUT DIDN'T SEE BIRD, ON TUESDAY NIGHT WHILE LOOKING THRU PETERSEN'S WESTERN GUIDE (SEE CONT.)

And finally, is this record 100% certain?: YES

Does anyone disagree?:

IN PREPARATION FOR ARIZONA TRIP SAW PICTURE OF SAY'S PHOEBE. ALSO CHECKED AUDUBON MASTER GUIDE AND DECIDED THERE WAS NO DOUBT BIRDS WERE SAY'S PHOEBE, THE EASTERN GUIDE PICTURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WESTERN GUIDE OR AUDUBON GUIDE,