

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 10/18/94

Vermilion Flycatcher

25 Oct 1992

Rathbun Reservoir, Appanoose Co., IA

\*Sinclair,\*T.Johnson,\*Cummins,\*Kent,\*Ful

IBL 63:20, 70, AB 47:101, Sinclair 1993

Record Number: 92-39

Classification: A-P

#### DOCUMENTATIONS

Jim Sinclair, 810 North B Street, Indianola, IA 50125

(6/30/93)

Tom Johnson, RR 1, Mystic, IA 52574

Ray Cummins, 609 S. Main Street, Centerville, IA 52544

Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

T. H. Kent, P-0349

Reid I. Allen, P-0350

#### REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 63:20

Photo: Am. Birds 47:101 [P-0349], IBL 63(4) cover (Schantz)

Records Committee: IBL 63:70

Sinclair, J. 1993. Vermilion Flycatcher in Appanoose County.

IBL 63:101-102.

VOTE: 7 A-P

A-P, The darkness of the red color under the tail and belly suggests that this could be an immature male.

A-P, Good details and great photos provided for a Vermilion Flycatcher! Could this be an immature male Vermilion Flycatcher?

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

Fall 1993

Volume 63, Number 4

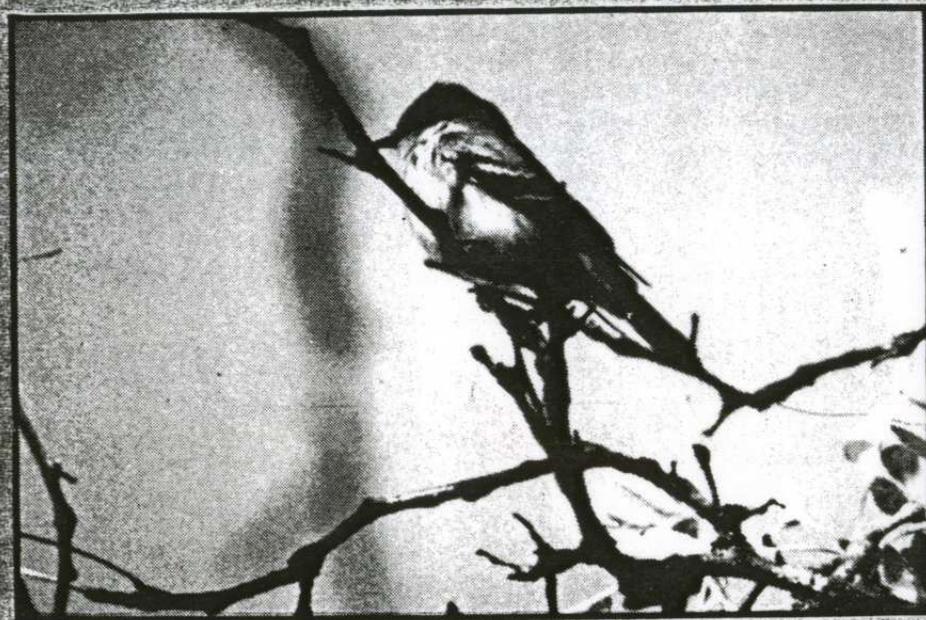
92-39

## CONTENTS

RANGE EXPANSION OF GREAT-TAILED GRACKLES IN IOWA, 1983-92	85
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore and James J. Dinsmore</i>	
IN MEMORIAM: LILLIAN SERBOUSEK	90
<i>Hank Zaletel</i>	
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS IN IOWA DURING 1993	91
<i>Jon Stravers and Kelly McKay</i>	
FIELD REPORTS--SUMMER 1993	93
<i>James J. Dinsmore</i>	
VERMILION FLYCATCHER IN APPANOOSE COUNTY	101
<i>Jim Sinclair</i>	
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD IN STORY COUNTY	102
<i>Matthew Patterson</i>	
THREE LOON SPECIES AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR	102
<i>Jim Fuller</i>	
A GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL IN POLK COUNTY IN SPRING	103
<i>Jim Sinclair</i>	
RED KNOTS AT RATHBUN RESERVOIR	104
<i>Charlotte Scott</i>	
BLACK RAIL SIGHTING IN POLK COUNTY	105
<i>Dick Kraemer and Barbara Miller</i>	
PINE WARBLERS IN WINTER AT IOWA CITY	106
<i>Jim Fuller</i>	
I.O.U. BUSINESS	107
<i>Business meeting, 15 May 1993</i>	

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

Fall 1993 Volume 63 Number 4



FRONT COVER: Vermilion Flycatcher, Rathbun Reservoir Appanoose County, 25 October 1992.  
Photograph by Tim Schantz, Otley, Iowa.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information,  
Instructions to Authors, Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

BACK COVER: Meeting Dates, Report Deadlines, Birdline, Materials Available.

Copyright 1993 Iowa Ornithologists' Union

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

numbers elsewhere included 2185 at Chicago Botanical Gardens Nov. 13 (LB) and 200-300 in Clark, OH, Nov. 24-27, the latter constituting an unusually large count for that state. Noteworthy for Indiana were 2 pairs of Sandhills that nested near Bristol; each pair raised one young. All departed about Oct. 25 (VR).

**SHOREBIRDS**

Black-bellied Plovers were widespread, with a peak count of 51 at L. Cal., Aug. 23 (JL). Singletons visited Cowan L., OH, Sept. 9 (LG), establishing a first local record, and lingered at Rathbun Res. until Nov. 28 (TJ), providing a new late date for Iowa. Modest Lesser Golden-Plovers were widespread; the maximum was 164 in Will, IL, Sept. 11 (JM). Piping Plovers staged a fine flight with 7 sightings, including one in Calloway, KY, Sept. 1 (CP), where this species is rarely seen. American Avocets were scarce; the largest flocks contained 11 at Rathbun Res., IA, Oct. 8 (CS) and nine at Charleston, IL, Oct. 10 (RB). Single birds strayed into unfamiliar territory in Calloway, KY, Sept. 15-16 (CP) and at Caesar Creek L., OH, Nov. 3 (TLi, ph. LG). A flock of 500 Greater Yellowlegs at L. Chat, July 25 (RP), greatly exceeded counts from all other locations. The Lesser Yellowlegs flight was unexceptional, except in Illinois, where 4000 were seen at L. Chat, July 25 (RP), and 471 at L. Cal., July 20 (JL). A straggler lingered at Gibson, IN, until Nov. 21 (AB). Willets were in short supply this fall, with only 6 reports, all of singletons, in the entire Region. One of these appeared in Calloway, KY, Sept. 5 (CP), where this species is quite rare. A tardy Spotted Sandpiper remained in Gibson, IN, until Nov. 8 (GB). The maximum Upland Sandpiper count consisted of 27 at Schneider, IN, Aug. 16 (WB). The Whimbrel count totaled nine: five in Ohio, two in Chicago, and two in n.w. Indiana. Quite rare were single inland Hudsonian Godwits at Grand L. St. Mary's, OH, Oct. 22-24 (DD, LG, m.ob.), Arcola, IL, Oct. 24-25 (RSa, RCh), and Grand L. St. Mary's, OH, Nov. 11-15 (JDu, m.ob.).

The Region experienced a fine Red Knot flight, with 36 in Indiana, 12 in Illinois, four in Iowa, and four in Ohio. The Iowa birds appeared Oct. 4 at Rathbun Res. (†CS, †TJ, †RCu), establishing a late departure date for the state. The Semipalmated Sandpiper flight was feeble, with peak counts of 295 at L. Cal., Aug. 29 (JL) and 200 at L. Chat July 25 (RP). One lingered at Great L. St. Mary's, OH, until Oct. 24, well beyond the normal departure date (JD, SU). The 4000 birds seen at L. Chat July 25 (RP) constitute the Region's only

large Least Sandpiper concentration. A flock of 11 ad. White-rumped Sandpipers, observed in N. Chicago (Lake) Aug. 26 (DJ), constitutes an extraordinarily large fall count. A late White-rumped at Gibson, IN, Nov. 8, was superseded by two Baird's Sandpipers at the same location Nov. 15 (GB). The only large Pectoral Sandpiper counts came from Illinois, where 1000 birds were picked out at both L. Chat July 25 (RP) and Horseshoe L. Conservation Area Aug. 29 (KM). Elsewhere this species was scarce. Purple Sandpipers appeared sparingly at traditional Great Lakes sites, with one on L. Michigan and three on L. Erie. After last year's massive flight, the Dunlin migration moderated considerably; the largest counts consisted of 100-200 individuals. The Stilt Sandpiper migration was about normal; one reached Cowan L., OH, Sept. 3 (LG), establishing a first local record. Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared in every state except Kentucky. The maximum count was 40 at Montrose W.M.A., MO, Aug. 30 (BF et al.). Single Ruffs were reported at Chicago July 19 (DM, ASi), a female at Riverlands Environmental Area, MO, Aug. 3 (†DiA), and a black and white male at Cleveland, OH, Aug. 24-25 (WK, †TLe). Few Short-billed Dowitchers were reported; the 244 at L. Cal., Sept. 13, were by far the largest single count. Two fine Long-billed Dowitcher counts were made in n.w. Ohio, the largest 300 at Metzger Marsh, Lucas, Oct. 24 (JD, SU). The identification of an early ad. Long-billed in DuPage, IL, Jul 27 (†MSm) was confirmed by call. Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce; the Region's total consisted of 10 from Illinois, two from Indiana, and two from Ohio. Red-necked Phalaropes were even less common, with only three in Illinois and two in Ohio. By contrast, Red Phalaropes staged an excellent flight with 8 records from 4 states. Many sightings were at inland locations, including a very early arrival at L. Chat, Sept. 10-19 (KR, †RCh, m.ob.), one at Sangemon, IL, Nov. 3 (DBO, ph. DOe), a singleton at Rath-

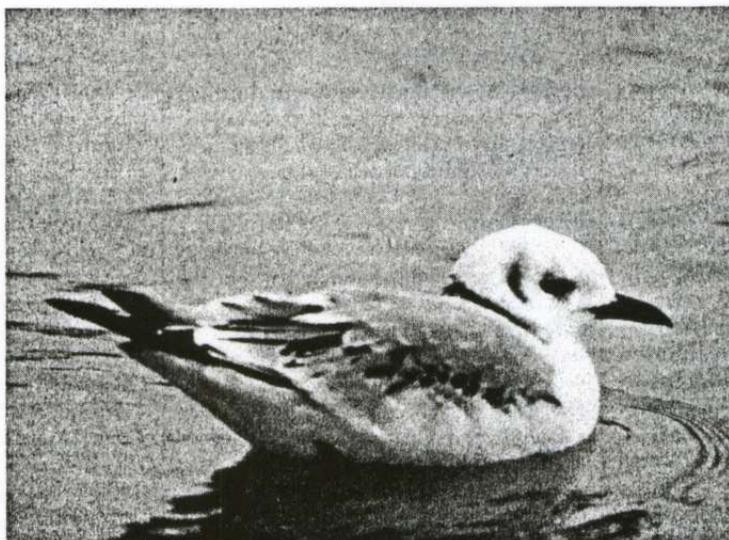


Vermilion Flycatcher at Rathbun Reservoir, Iowa, on October 25, 1992. Photograph/T. H. Kent.

bun Res., IA, Nov. 8-9 (ph. †THK, †RCu, m.ob.), and two at L. Lemon, IN, Nov. 7 (RT, DW et. aet al.).

**JAEGERS, GULLS**

The Great Lakes had a good Jaeger fall with eight Parasitics on L. Michigan and two on L. Erie, plus 10 unidentified jaegers along the Indiana lakefront. The best single day accompanied a Sept. 22 cold front that swept three ad. light-morph Parasitics, three juv. Parasitics, six unidentified jaegers, and a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger (ph. RHu, †LH, HAW et al.) into view at Miller Beach, IN. This tally constitutes Indiana's highest single-day jaeger count since 1965. Laughing Gulls were widespread, with 12 records from the 4 n. states. Franklin's Gulls expanded e. farther than normal, with 500 at Credit I., e. IA, Nov. 3 (CB, fide PP), 100+ at Palos, IL, Nov. 4 (SF), and 11 at L. Lemmon, IN, Nov. 7 (DW). Counts of Little Gulls continue to rise. Seven birds were recorded in Illinois (four at inland sites) and two in Ohio. The only Com. Black-headed Gull was at Lorain, OH, Nov. 26-27 (JP), where this species occurs regularly. Adult California Gulls appeared Nov. 16 in Chicago (†RHu) and Nov. 18 at Michigan City harbor, IN (†KB). Good numbers of Lesser-Black Backed Gulls were reported, with eight in Illinois, five in Ohio, two in Indiana, and one in Missouri. The latter record was at Riverlands Environmental Area Nov. 8-30 (JZ et al.). A major candidate for the "bird of the year" was an imm. Glaucous-winged Gull that appeared in



Black-legged Kittiwake in Boone County, Missouri, November 24, 1992. Photograph/Doug Hardesty.

## VERMILION FLYCATCHER IN APPANOOSE COUNTY

JIM SINCLAIR

On 25 October 1992, Rick Trieff and I were birding at Rathbun Reservoir in Appanoose County. At approximately 10:30 a.m., as I ascended the stairs to the Dedication Shelter at Island View Park, I noticed a small flycatcher-shaped bird perched on the far railing of the shelter. The bird turned to face me and, at 25 feet with 10 x 42 binoculars, was identifiable as an adult female Vermilion Flycatcher.



The bird was flycatcher shaped, 5-6 inches long with head and mantle a uniform medium gray color. The bill was small and black, and the eye was dark with a broad, ill-defined dark mask. The wings were the same color as the mantle with buffy feather edgings and two less-than-prominent buffy wing bars. The throat was white, and the breast and upper belly were white with faint gray streaking. The rest of the belly and flanks were warm reddish-orange. The bird was actively flycatching and also pumped its tail while perched.

The flycatcher remained near the Dedication Shelter for the remainder of the day and was observed by numerous birders. Unfortunately, the bird could not be relocated at dawn the next morning.

This is the third record of a Vermilion Flycatcher in Iowa. However, this is the first female and the first fall record. Both previous sightings were males, and both were found in May (Van Dyk 1983, Anderson 1989). Fall vagrancy records for states bordering Iowa include one each for Minnesota (Janssen 1987), Nebraska (Bray et al. 1986), Wisconsin (Robbins 1991), and South Dakota (South Dakota Ornithologists' Union 1991). The Vermilion Flycatcher is a casual transient in Missouri with five fall records from September through mid-November (Robbins and Easterla 1992).

Although I confidently identified this bird as an adult female, that confidence was soon shaken. The book I use in the field (National Geographic Society 1983) referred to fall immature birds as more closely resembling the respective adults. This is somewhat misleading in that immature females rarely show any red or orange while immature males show varying amounts of red-orange, especially on the belly and flanks where the adult female's red is located. Fortunately the illustrations show red blotching in the breast and crown of the immature male while the adult female's red is restricted to the lower belly and flanks. This pattern is also described by Pyle et al. (1987), therefore confirming my original identification of an adult female Vermilion Flycatcher in Iowa.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Anderson, G. 1989. Vermilion Flycatcher at Rice Lake. *Iowa Bird Life* 59:63.  
Bray, T. E., B. K. Padelford, and W. R. Silcock. 1986. *The birds of Nebraska*. Privately published. 111 pp.  
Janssen, R. B. 1987. *Birds in Minnesota*. Univ. Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, MN. 352 pp.  
National Geographic Society. 1983. *Field guide to the birds of North America*. National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. 464 pp.  
Pyle, P., S. N. G. Howell, R. P. Yunick, and D. F. DeSante. 1987. *Identification guide to North American passerines*. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, CA 278 pp.

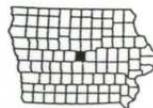
- Robbins, M. B., and D. A. Easterla. 1992. *Birds of Missouri*. Univ. Missouri Press, Columbia, MO. 399 pp.  
Robbins, S. D. 1991. *Wisconsin birdlife*. Univ. Wisconsin Press, Madison. 702 pp.  
South Dakota Ornithologists' Union. 1991. *The birds of South Dakota*, 2nd ed. Aberdeen, SD. 411 pp.  
Van Dyk, J. 1983. Vermilion Flycatcher in north-west Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 53:58-59.

810 North B. St., Indianola, IA

## MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD IN STORY COUNTY

MATTHEW PATTERSON

On 17 March 1992, I was walking through a pasture/woods complex just south of Ames hoping to identify some early spring migrants. I came across a small flock of Eastern Bluebirds moving and foraging ahead of me. Being the first Eastern Bluebirds of the season for me, I stopped for a look. To my surprise, my eyes fell on one solid blue bird with white underparts within the larger group. Knowing immediately that I was looking at a Mountain Bluebird, I began to make note of its behavior and field marks. The bird was perched 4 to 5 feet above the ground. It allowed a close approach of 15 feet while it repeatedly dropped to the ground to feed. Its blue color was lighter and more brilliant than its eastern relative. The breast was a paler blue that faded to a white belly. This bird's legs stood more erect and its body more horizontal than the Eastern Bluebirds. I watched the bird for 20 minutes and then left to get a camera. I returned a few hours later and on the next day, but was unable to relocate the bird. This is the seventh accepted record of Mountain Bluebirds in Iowa and the first for Story County. The mid-March date, about the time that migrant Eastern Bluebirds start to arrive in Iowa, fits the pattern of several of the previous Mountain Bluebird records from Iowa (see Steffens and Johnson, *Iowa Bird Life* 61:119-120, 1961).

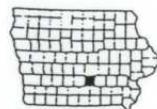


Department of Animal Ecology, Iowa State Univ., Ames, IA 50011

## THREE LOON SPECIES AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR

JIM FULLER

During the I.O.U. field trip to Red Rock Reservoir on 7 November 1992, a Red-throated Loon was discovered near the marina boat ramp of the West Wallashuck Recreation Area in Marion County. Almost immediately after setting up my scope early the next morning, I found what I identified as the Red-throated Loon only about 200 yards to the east. There were also a number of Common Loons in the area, sometimes with one or more in the same scope field. Pam and Reid Allen arrived shortly after I found the bird, and as Reid was watching it in his scope, he exclaimed that another loon had flown in and landed very close to the Red-throated Loon, and it was not a Common Loon. It was a Pacific Loon. By this time the birds were 300 yards off and drifting farther





Vermilion Flycatcher P-0349  
Rathbun Res., Appanoose Co., IA  
25 Oct 1992 T. H. Kent

92-39

> 00 -02 1RHN 946 111-023

Vermilion Flycatcher P-0349  
Rathbun Res., Appanoose Co., IA  
25 Oct 1992 T. H. Kent

92-39

> 00 -01 1RHN 946 111-019

## DOCUMENTATION FORM

92-39

## Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species adult ♀ Vermillion Flycatcher  
 Location Island View Park, Rathbun Reservoir, Appanoose Co.  
 Habitat open parkland, scattered trees along beach front  
 Date(s) 10/25/92 Time 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
 Name and Address Jim Sinclair, 810 North B St., Indianola  
 Other observers \_\_\_\_\_

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 behavior and voice.

Bird was first observed on railing of shelter-house. Small flycatcher 5-6 in. long. Bill and eye black, dark eye line somewhat indistinct. Head, mantle and tail a uniform gray. Wings gray with buffy feather edgings and two less than prominent wing bars. Throat white, breast and very upper belly white with faint gray streaking. Rest of belly and flanks a warm reddish-orange. Bird was actively flycatching, other behavior included tail pumping and preening.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Viewed for two hours at distances as close as twenty-five ft from all different angles  
 Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description:  
Brief look at picture in 1995 Field Guide

How long before field notes made? 10 minutes. How long before this form completed? five hours

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

92-39

What species? Vermillion Flycatcher How many? 1

Location? Lake Rathbun - Dedication Pt

Type of Habitat? Trees and railing of picnic area

When? date(s): Oct. 25 time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Who? your name and address: Tom Johnson RT 1, Mystic IA 52574

Others with you: Many - Pat Cornell, Tim Gehartz, Bar Lanning

Others before or after you: Jim Sinclair, Tim Fuller, Tom Kent

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Flycatching bird - catching insects over water and at edge of perches. Bird had brown back, salmon underbelly stripe on belly upper that extends into salmon. Black eye, black stripe through eye, white above eye, 2 light wing bars. Slight hook on upper mandible

Similar species; how eliminated:

I have pictures if needed

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Sunny, 15' to 50' - 75M 2 + 8138 B&L Binocs  
Focu

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Arizona - Patagonia etc.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Nat. Geo. Field guide

How long before field notes made? same day - 10/25/80 this form completed? 45 days

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

92-39

Species: Vermillon Flycatcher female Number: 1

Location: Rathbun Lake dedication sight

Observer: Ray Cummins 609 S. Main st. Centerville, IA. 52544

Others before/with/after: Tom Johnson, Mary Montgomery, Dot Cornett & others

Date: 10/25/92 Time Bird Seen: 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Habitant & circumstances: I went out to the dedication sight to confirm a reported sighting of a Vermillon Flycatcher by Jim Sinclair. The flycatcher would fly from and return to various perches, in trees and on the dedication sight itself, to catch insects.

Description: The flycatcher was about the size of a House Sparrow. The most obvious feature, both setting and in flight, was the reddish orange lower sides, belly and lower tail coverts. The head was medium to large sized. The upper and lower mandibles of the bill were all black with a small hook on the upper mandible. The eye was all black with a thinner than eyewidth black eyeline. The breast and sides were whitish with gray streaks running into reddish belly and lower sides. The throat was unstreaked white. The back was plain grayish brown. The wings had two faint wingbars and whitish lower edges to the tertials. The tail was very slightly forked.

Description of voice: N/H.

Similarly appearing species:

Distance (how measured): As close as 20 to 30ft. Estimated.

Optical equipment: 20X x 60X Kowa spotting scope.

Light: Sun at back excellent light

Previous experience with species: Have seen in Texas

Anyone have reservations?: No.

Books and references: NGS consulted during sighting.

Time of field notes: during observation. Final typing: 7 days.

Signature: Ray Cummins Address: 609 S. Main St.  
Date: 10-31-92 Centerville, Ia. 52544

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

**Species:** Vermilion Flycatcher; **Number:** 1 female

**Location:** Rathbun Reservoir, Appanoose Co., Iowa

**Date:** 25 October 1992; **Time:** 2:00--2:30, 3:00--3:05 p.m.

**Name and address:** Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

**Others before/with/after:** Found by Jim Sinclair. With Jim Fuller, Ray Cummins, Tom Johnson, Tim Schantz.

**Habitat and circumstances:** A grassy picnic point extending into a large reservoir with a few scattered deciduous trees.

**Description of bird:** A small trim flycatcher. No other birds present for size comparison. The bird frequently flew out from perches in the trees to catch insects. It pumped its tail from time to time. The bill was thin and black with a slight curve to the distal upper mandible and a tiny hook at the end. The eye and legs were dark. The upper parts were overall dark gray. The greater and median coverts were tipped with lighter gray producing very thin gray wing bars. The tail was dark, darker than the back, maybe black. There was an indistinct black eyeline. I saw the ear coverts and they were concolor with the upper head. The throat was clear light gray. The breast was about the same color with long streaks that became finer on the sides of the breast. The belly and under tail coverts were a light orange-red. I thought they were quite bright compared to other female Vermilion Flycatchers I have seen.

**Voice:** Not heard.

**Similar species:** I can't think of any. This bird did not appear to have a face patch or white superciliary as shown in the field guides, and the orange-red color was brighter than shown.

**Any one have reservations?:** No.

**Light:** Afternoon sun behind us most of the time. **Distance:** I got as close as 20 feet with my camera. **Optics:** 10x binocular, 20x scope, 420 mm lens.

**Previous experience:** Have seen several in Texas and Arizona.

**References before/after viewing:** We looked at field guides when viewing in order to see what immatures might look like.

**Time of notes:** After last viewing; **Final typing:** 20 hours.

Date: 10-31-92  
Signature: [Signature]  
Address: 609 S. Main St.  
Coryville, Ia 52244  
Final typing: 7 days

## DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: Vermillion Flycatcher (Female)

LOCATION: Dedication Point, Rathbun Reservoir, Appanoose County.

WHEN: 25 October, 1992 (1:59-2:30 PM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240.

OTHER OBSERVERS: I was with Tom Kent. Also present were Ray Cummins, Tom Johnson, Dot Cornett, and Tim Schantz. The bird was reported by Jim Sinclair. There were MOB later.

BACKGROUND: Jim Sinclair reported a female Vermillion Flycatcher at this location to the Iowa Birdline shortly after 11 AM. I arrived with Tom Kent about three hours later to have those present point out the bird in a large cottonwood tree at the end of Dedication Point. We watched it in that tree and other trees exhibiting typical flycatcher behavior for the next half hour.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Although there were no other birds to compare it to, the general size was judged to be between a wood pewee and an empidonax flycatcher. It had the erect posture and the constant quick head movements of a flycatcher. It was generally dark above and light below, also with a brilliant orange-pink below.

DESCRIPTION: The crown was dark gray with the point well behind the eye. There was a dark eyeline, and a light line above the eye. The eye itself was dark. The bill was only about a third the width of the head, and was entirely black, with a straight lower mandible and a curved upper mandible which had a slight downward hook at the end. The wings were a dark gray with two faint light gray wingbars. The throat was white, but the breast and upper belly had gray streaking over the white. The lower belly and vent were a rich orange-pink color, and the streaking from the white portion of the belly just got into this orange area. The tail seemed rather short, and was a dark gray, almost black. It appeared to be flat on the end. The legs were dark.

BEHAVIOR: The bird exhibited typical flycatching behavior by flying up and catching a bug and then returning to a perch in the tree. The perches were not exposed at the top of the tree, but were rather more in the middle. After alighting, the bird rapidly pumped its tail up and down two or three times. No vocalization was heard.

VIEWING CONDITIONS and OPTICS: The day was warm and sunny. The bird was observed at mid afternoon, usually looking north or northeast at distances ranging from 25-75 feet. Optics included Swift Audubon binoculars (8.5 X 44) and a KOWA TSN-4 telescope with 20-60X zoom lens, always set on the 20X.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: No one disagreed with the identification. I have seen this bird at least five times in California and Arizona previously.

FIELD NOTES and GUIDES: Field notes were made immediately after returning to the car, and no field guides were consulted until after all field notes were complete. At that time, I did look at both National Geographic and Peterson Field Guides. This form was typed the following day, 10/26.

BACKGROUND: Jim Sinclair reported a female Vermilion Flycatcher at this location to the low ridge shortly after 11 AM. I arrived with Tom Kent about three hours later to have those present point out the bird in a large cottonwood tree at the end of Dedication Point. We watched it in that tree and other trees exhibiting typical Flycatcher behavior for the next half hour.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Although there were no other birds to compare it to, the general size was judged to be between wood pewee and an emberwing flycatcher. It had the erect posture and the constant quick head movements of a flycatcher. It was generally dark above and light below, also with a brilliant orange-pink below.

DESCRIPTION: The crown was dark gray with the point well behind the eye. There was a dark eyeline, and a light line above the eye. The eye itself was dark. The bill was only about a third the width of the head, and was entirely black, with a straight lower mandible and a curved upper mandible which had a slight downward hook at the end. The wings were a dark gray with two faint light gray wingbars. The throat was white, but the breast and upper belly had gray streaking over the white. The lower belly and vent were a rich orange-pink color, and the streaking from the white portion of the belly just got into this orange area. The tail seemed rather short, and was a dark gray, almost black. It appeared to be flat on the end. The legs were dark.

BEHAVIOR: The bird exhibited typical flycatching behavior by flying up and catching a bug and then returning to a perch in the tree. The perches were not exposed at the top of the tree, but were rather more in the middle. After alighting, the bird rapidly pumped its tail up and down two or three times. No vocalization was heard.