



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LARRY J. WILSON, DIRECTOR

Wildlife Research Station  
RR #1 Boone IA 50036  
19 May 1987

Mr. Robert Myers  
Spring Field Reports Editor  
RR 2, Box 153  
Perry IA 50220

Dear Bob:

This time a report of a scissor-tailed flycatcher (a new life bird for me!!). At 9:07 a.m., Sunday, 17 May I observed a scissor-tailed flycatcher setting on a power line at the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, S9, T83N, R26W along the gravel road which is state road 164. The bird was in an area dominated by rowcrop agriculture but was near a wooded draw in an oat set-aside field edge. Weather was beautiful, clear and calm. Although I did not have binoculars, the identification was unmistakable. The bird sat approximately 30 feet away from me for a moment, then flew northwest where I searched for 2 hours in an unsuccessful attempt to relocate it.

The flycatcher had very long tail feathers that appeared very light colored except on the end where they appeared almost black. I was struck by the overall light underside of the bird and the short, stubby appearance of the wings. It appeared to be about the size of a great-crested flycatcher. The flycatcher flew fairly high as compared with what I normally observe in kingbirds. It lifted off the power line, gained altitude, and remained high until I lost sight of it.

Since the observation, I have been past the area 6 times, watching closely for the bird but unfortunately, I have not seen it again.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Reeves  
Nongame Wildlife Biologist

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cc: 1