

RECORD #: 6-B-06

IDAHO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

SPECIES:

Eastern Phoebe / Sayornis phoebe

REPORTER:

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OTHER OBSERVERS:

Lisa Weisse
contact info as above

DATE REPORT PREPARED:

4/26/2006

DATE SIGHTING OCCURRED:

4/15/2006

LOCALITY OF OBSERVATION:

North boat ramp/picnic area at Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area, near the town of Mud Lake,
Jefferson County

HABITAT:

Shoreline riparian area

CONDITIONS:

DID YOU TAKE NOTES?:

not at all?

DID YOU CONSULT FIELD GUIDE OR OTHER REFERENCES?:

during the observation?

WHAT GUIDE(S) OR REFERENCE(S) DID YOU CONSULT?:

The Sibley Guide to Birds

DESCRIPTION:

Flycatcher with brown upperparts, contrasting darker blackish cap, round head with no hint of peak or crest, white throat, yellow wash on belly, dusky gray sides of breast that graduated to a few blurry streaks towards the center of breast, pale not dusky flanks, pale wing bars that were noticeable but not extensive on greater and median coverts, entirely dark tail with no white or pale visible anywhere.

BEHAVIOR:

This individual mostly perched on lakeside willows or low branches of Cottonwoods. Once it perched as high as 15 feet off the ground and occasionally it perched on the ground. It occasionally perched on top of adjacent Sagebrush as well as on top of a cinder block outhouse structure while foraging. Frequent sallies for flying insects were observed once it warmed up enough to make insects active. The bird vocalized infrequently, only chip notes were heard that sounded consistent with recordings on Stokes Eastern CD. Regular tail wagging was also observed. The tail was flicked or wagged sideways, not pumped up and down.

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE BIRD, AND WHAT CLINCHED THE IDENTIFICATION FOR YOU?

It was already ID'd by other observers but the contrasting dark cap, yellow wash on underparts, dusky sides of breast with blurry streaks towards center, and tail wagging behavior were marks used to identify the bird to my satisfaction.

HOW DID YOU ELIMINATE SIMILAR SPECIES, AND WHAT WERE THEY?

No other flycatchers have brown upperparts with darker crown except Rose-throated Becard and possibly the pewees. All pewees have dusky flanks, show peaked head (crest), and do not regularly wag tail sideways. Juvenile Rose-throated Becard has rufous upperparts and female Rose-throated Becard has rufous tail. Additionally Rose-throated Becard does not wag tail regularly.

EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES (AND SIMILAR SPECIES):

: Limited to a few (less than five) individuals on trips to NJ and MO. I see dozens of Western Wood Pewees and empids annually

GENERAL BIRDING EXPERIENCE:

13 years

WERE PHOTO(S), VIDEO, AND/OR AUDIO OBTAINED BY YOU?:

None