

RECORD #: 8-B-06

IDAHO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

SPECIES:

Eastern Phoebe

REPORTER:

Robert Bond
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208-443-2960

OTHER OBSERVERS:

Georgene Bond

DATE REPORT PREPARED:

May 29, 2006

DATE SIGHTING OCCURRED:

May 28 & 29, 2006

LOCALITY OF OBSERVATION:

Where East Side Road connecting Priest River and Coolin on Priest Lake crosses the East River. Bird frequented the wires over west side of bridge, and foraged into the bushes and trees on both sides of the stream on the west side of the bridge. One time flew under the bridge. Location on Idaho DeLorme map page 62

HABITAT:

See under Locality

CONDITIONS:

Cloudy, calm, temperature in 50's. We were within 25 feet or so of the bird when it was perched on the wire

DID YOU TAKE NOTES?:

No, not at all

DID YOU CONSULT FIELD GUIDE OR OTHER REFERENCES?:

Yes, later the same day

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

National Geographic

DESCRIPTION:

Moderate sized flycatcher with dark head and face, no markings on face, rather sharp demarcation along lower side of head separating the dark head from white throat. Area of gray extending a short distance from the shoulder area into the breast. Lower belly very slightly yellowish tinged. Back dark, but lighter than the head. Bill was all dark. Tail was dark. No wing bars. Continually pumped tail downware. Multiple photographs taken on May 29, 2006

BEHAVIOR:

Tail pumping as noted above. Bird would frequently fly off of perch, catch a bug and either return to same perch or different nearby perch.

*BOND OFFERED THE FOLLOWING ADDENDUM VIA
FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON May 29, 2006:*

I failed to mention on my earlier report on the Eastern Phoebe about it's song. When seen on May 28 it was silent. However for the 20 minutes or so we witnessed the bird on May 29 it was singing it's 2 syllable Phoebe song frequently while perched.

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

Immediately when the bird was first seen at 6:40 pm on May 29. I know the bird well.

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

No real similar birds. Eastern Kingbird is larger, white border on tail, doesn't pump tail down. Wrong description for other Phoebes. Larger than all Empidonax flycatchers and different appearance and behavior.

EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES (AND SIMILAR SPECIES):

Very familiar with this bird. I lived in Minnesota for 4 years and saw the bird numerous times as well as during other trips to the east.

GENERAL BIRDING EXPERIENCE:

See under my report on Upland Sandpiper dated May 28, 2006

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

Photo