

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Buff-breasted Flycatcher Scientific Name: Empidonax fulvifrons

Date: 7 July 1985 Time: 0720-0730 Length of time observed: 10 min

Number: 1 Age: Ad Sex: ?

Location: Green Canyon, Cache Co., Utah

Latilong: T12N, R1E, S16

Elevation (if known): ~ 6600'

Distance to bird: 3-5 m

Light conditions: slight haze

Optical equipment: 7x35 Bushnell Custom Binocs.

Weather: Warm (~65° at the time of sighting), calm, hazy with high clouds also

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Bird was seen during a 10 minute count of species present in a very steep (65% slope clinometer reading), Southern exposure, Juniper (Juniperus osteosperma) - curlyleaf mahogany (Cercocarpus ledifolius) community. It was first noticed because it was giving a loud "Whit" call delivered with a flick of its wings and tail. It was carrying a large worm (~1/4" diam, ~2" long) and continued to scold me the entire time I was there (10 mins). My notes at the time read as follows "Buff-breasted Flycatcher - Breast and sides buffy, eye-ring, throat light with brown on sides, head less bright buffy, white undertail coverts, wing bars with top one much more distinct, brown back, small."

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: Single note alarm call, "Whit" delivered with flick of wings and tail.

Behavior: Foraging in Juniper, carrying a large worm, giving continuous alarm calls due to what I presume was my close proximity to its nest. Did not observe it to aevially "flycatch", but rather observed it foraging for and carry worms.

Habitat: Juniper - curly leaf Mahogany, steep, southern exposure, few grasses & forbs (< 10%), mostly bare rock and scree.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

I suppose any of the other Empidonax flycatchers, but the bright buffy coloration of the breast and sides immediately brought the Buff-breasted Flycatcher to mind.

What experience have you had with this and similar species: None with this species, however, I have done extensive bird inventory work in the west and am familiar with many of the Empidonax spp.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: consulted Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds, and Bruu et al. Birds of N. Am after my notes were made.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting X notes made later ___ from memory ___

Observer: Eric E. Hanson Signature: Eric E. Hanson

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Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared: 8 July 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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