

11-1986

DOCUMENTATION --
RARE BIRD SIGHTING

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

11-1986 AMERICAN BIRDS

Species: DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER
(Vernacular name)

MYIARCHUS TUBERCULIFER
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 31 APRIL 1986 Time Bird Seen: 2 1/2 NOON to _____

Locality: GRAND COUNTY, UTAH 1/4 MILE WEST OF COLORADO LINE, 5 MILES S OF I-70
17 MILES WEST OF FRUITA, MESA COUNTY, CO
Nearest town, county and state: _____

Optical equipment: 8 X 20 BINOCULARS

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: ADULT

Light conditions: BRIGHT SUN

Distance from bird, and how measured: 20 FEET (ESTIMATE)

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

WAS PERCHED IN A PINYON TREE ON EDGE OF DRY WASH. POSITION IN TREE + ERECT POSTURE INDICATED FLYCATCHER DID NOT MOVE FROM BRANCH UNTIL FLUSHED.

Since it was not differentiated from Tyrannulus and tuberculifer based on its and occurs in UTs and since it is a first record of field. No nest found in description. Curt

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

PINYON-JUNIPER WOODLAND IN DRY WASH 3/4 MILE NORTH OF AN
200 FEET ABOVE COLORADO RIVER

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

NONE

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

BROWNISH BIRD WITH WHITISH THROAT + BREAST, PALE YELLOW BELLY. SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN PEWEE. BUSHY CREST ERECTED IN TERRITORIAL MANNER. ERECT POSTURE, LARGE HEAD, CREST INDICATED MYIARCHUS SP. TAIL RELATIVELY SHORT. NO REDDISH OBSERVED IN WINGS OR TAIL. TO CONFIRM SIGHTING, I APPROACHED TO WITHIN 20 FEET TO FLUSH THE BIRD. EVEN IN FLIGHT, WINGS AND TAIL WERE ALL BROWNISH-GRAY, WITH NO TRACE OF REDDISH TINGE.

why was this not a brown crested?

this is a convery

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

NONE

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: REDDISH WINGS + TAIL, LARGER, TAIL RELATIVELY LONGER.
NON-MYIARCHUS FLYCATCHERS: SMALLER CREST, DIFFERENT OVERALL SHAPE + POSTURE.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

BOTH SPECIES OBSERVED MANY TIMES IN SW COLORADO AND IN MEXICO

only casual in Colo

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory X

NAME (print): JAMES R. GUADAGNO

Mailing address: 777 WASHINGTON, #402 DENVER CO 80203

Signature: James R. Guadagno

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206

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RARE BIRD SIGHTING

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AMERICAN BIRDS

11-1986a

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17 MILES WEST OF FRUITA, MESA COUNTY, CO
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 8X20 BINOCULARS

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: ADULT

Light conditions: BRIGHT SUN

Distance from bird, and how measured: 20 FEET (ESTIMATE)

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

WAS PERCHED IN A PINYON TREE ON EDGE OF DRY WASH.
POSITION IN TREE + ERECT POSTURE INDICATED FLYCATCHER
DID NOT MOVE FROM BRANCH UNTIL FLUSHED.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

PINYON-JUNIPER WOODLAND IN DRY WASH 3/4 MILE NORTH OF A
200 FEET ABOVE COLORADO RIVER

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

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Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field. *Doesn't mention Brown Cap!!*

BROWNISH BIRD WITH WHITISH THROAT + BREAST, PALE YELLOW BELLY, SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN PEWEE. BUSHY CREST ERECTED IN TERRITORIAL MANNER. ERECT POSTURE, LARGE HEAD, CREST INDICATED MYIARCHUS SP. TAIL RELATIVELY SHORT. NO REDDISH OBSERVED IN WINGS OR TAIL. TO CONFIRM SIGHTING, I APPROACHED TO WITHIN 20 FEET TO FLUSH THE BIRD. EVEN IN FLIGHT, WINGS AND TAIL WERE ALL BROWNISH-GRAY, WITH NO TRACE OF REDDISH TINGE.

Has thin rufous edgings

Absolutely wrong! Dusky-capped Flycatcher does have rufous edgings to wings.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

NONE

Call of Dusky-capped is mournful "pee-ur" first ascending, then descending, which is unlike any other Myiarchus in N. America.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: REDDISH WINGS + TAIL, LARGER, TAIL RELATIVELY LONGER.

NON-MYIARCHUS FLYCATCHERS: SMALLER CREST, DIFFERENT OVERALL SHAPE + POSTURE.

Dusky-capped has bill almost as big as Ash-throated, making Dusky-capped look "large-billed". No mention of this by observer.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

BOTH SPECIES OBSERVED MANY TIMES IN SW COLORADO AND IN MEXICO

No sense!!

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