

APPENDIX V
 UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS by Nelson Boschen
 UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Lat/long _____ Record type _____ Serial No. _____
 Habitat _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Eastern Phoebe
 Scientific Name Sayornis phoebe
 Obs. date Oct. 30, 1990 Time(s) 1020-1150; 1224-32; 1242-306
 Duration of obs. 2:02 hrs + 1510-17 (7 min) = 2:09 hrs
 Distance from bird 10 to 50 yds, mostly ~ 30 yds
 Light conditions good; sun usually to my side or back
 Optical equip. Nikon 9x30 DCF binos / Bushnell scope
 Photo equip. OM1 w/ 205 mm telephoto lens
 Notes made at time of sighting Date report prepared Oct. 30, 1990
 Notes made later from memory < 1445 hrs

Weather at time of this observation.

Clear, ~ 70°F, calm.

Prior weather and number of days since change
 Same since Oct. 19 + 20 heavy rains almost continuously.

Locality On the Colorado River Floodplain
 3 miles downstream from Moab, UT.

Lat/long block number 18

Enter number of birds in each category. Total number observed. <u>one</u>	GENDER(S)	AGES(S)	PLUMAGE(S) looked <u>Fresh</u>	PHOTO(S)
	Males _____ Females _____ ♀ or Imms _____ Unknowns <u>1</u>	Adults _____ Juv/Imms _____ 2/3 yr birds _____ Unknowns <u>1</u>	Breeding _____ Transition _____ Eclipse _____ Dark phase _____ Winter _____ Light ph. _____ Other <u>juv.?</u>	Available _____ Enclosed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

with binos
 6-7" long w/ tail of moderate length. Slightly but noticeably smaller bodied + shorter by ~ 1/4 than a resident Say's Phoebe which kept chasing it about. Upper parts a dark olive gray, noticeably darker on the head + tail but not noticeably so on the wings. Chin + throat a pale white becoming dusky across the breast across the middle of which extended a gray wash that was wide + obvious at the shoulders but narrowing + paling to obscurity towards the middle of the breast. Below this gray wash was a clear pale yellow wash to + including the long undertail coverts. One faint paler gray Gr. Cov. wing bar. The dark head was relatively flat on top w/ a short sloping forehead, + it gave the impression of a well-defined cap extending down the nape + under the eye across the entire ear covert area (no recognizable covert pattern) sharply ending at the sideneck where the whitish of the throat was well extended. Black eye with clearly no eyering. Both mandibles all black, relatively straight + sharp + thin, + ~ as long as from their base to the eye (noticeably shorter + thinner than that of the Say's Phoebe). Tail slightly widened from base to tip, + the tip was slightly notched.

with scope
 Note: 1510-17: I just got along 25-yd view w/ scope on 50 power w/ perfect full sun behind me + on bird. Clearly fresh plumage, every bit of bill all black, no eyering, legs black, no bordering around ear covert. Additional features: A few faint gray streaks on the white chin + all the way across the middle of breast, tho very faint. A very good look at the undertail showed an almost thread-thin pale-gray line along each outer side of the tail (but this is an Eastern Phoebe + not a Gray or Dusky Flycatcher). The pale gray breast wash did extend down the sides to about the beginning of the flank.

Photos: Unfortunately I ran out of slides recently + had to stick in a roll of Kodacolor VR 100, but the faster ASA allowed me to use 1/250 shutter speed, so maybe the prints will reveal good points even though the bird would not let me get closer than about 40 ft.

After note: Seen regularly during glances out my window the rest of the day through 1740 hrs, after which it was too dark. Starting at 0700 next day, not seen on many searches that day + others.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL NOTES, LISTS OF REFERENCES, SKETCHES FROM LIFE, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

None.

Variations from expected field marks.

I expected more contrast between the back + scapulars, but I suspect this is not always prominent (?). Almost thread-thin pale outer borders on the outer tail feathers (underside at least).

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Gray Flycatcher: Initially seeing the down-pumping tail at ~50 yds, I thought of this species, but even at that distance, its darker cap contrasting w/ the back + white sideneck, + the brighter yellow underparts (brighter than I had ever seen on any Gray Flycatcher), told me it was something different. Closer inspection revealed absolutely no eyering + an all-black bill, which also ruled out most other Flycatchers.

Powees: Closer yellow (continuous) underparts below a faint gray smudging across the breast, all black bill, absolutely no eyering, contrastingly darker hood including behind the ear coverts, making the covert area indistinct.

Say's Phoebe: IS too orange (not yellow) + gray on underparts including throat, chin + side neck, + more of a brown-gray instead of an olive-gray above.

Willow/Alder Flycatchers: Even on Fall adults of these 2 spp., I would expect some signs of a median covert wingbar, a less contrastingly dark hood, + no all-black lower mandible.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

Continuous tail pumping while perched; sometimes up first but usually a short pump down first, continuing into a higher upward pump, with the down + up frequently smoothly connected by an arc to the side. Though it twice caught a dropped insect in midair, the initial catches were always ^(rear view) on the ground (n=25-35), using many perches 1-25' h. (usually 4-10' h.), rarely using one twice in a row, though some "Favorites" were used a number of times throughout the period. A resident Say's Phoebe that has chased it off at least 3 times now had at least twice made contact with it while they both hovered in the air.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Colorado River flat floodplain turned into weedy to open overgrazed pasture, with scattered Fremont Cottonwoods + manmade junk (both the cottonwood branches + the junk, + utility wires, were used extensively for perching).

Describe bird's song or sounds.

None heard.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

Nelson Boschen

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Signature Nelson Boschen

What is your experience with this or similar birds? E. Phoebes frequently in TX + farther east. Say's Phoebes often as local common residents. Gray Flycatchers fairly often as local migrants.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Print Name _____ Signature _____

Print Name _____ Signature _____

Print Name _____ Signature _____

Print Name _____ Signature _____