

14-1991

## UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: LEAST FLYCATCHER

Scientific Name: ~~Empidonax~~ *Empidonax minimus*

Date: JUNE 1, 1991

Time: 1:30 PM

Length of time observed: 10 min

Number: 1

Age: ADULT

Sex: ?

Location: Ogden River, Ogden Utah

Latilong: Z

Elevation (if known): 4,431

Distance to bird: 100 m to 3 ft

Light conditions: excellent

Optical equipment: binos 10x50

Weather: WARM clear

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

Small Flycatcher with moderately large head and short tail proportions

eyering - even and prominent

back - olivaceous gray

wings and coverts - black with white edging to tertials (very contrasting)  
with white prominent wing-bars on greater & median coverts

throat - whitish

Bill - short &amp; wide (almost triangular), pale to tip on lower

Primary extension - very short

Lower <sup>breast,</sup> belly & undertail coverts yellowish wash

upper breast grayish wash

Tail black

The continual calling of the loud "che-beck" call drew me to the bird. By playing a recording of a Least Flycatcher the bird came to within 3 feet. Very responsive to the recording!

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

Behavior: <sup>loud emphatic</sup> "chee bit" over & over. It would throw its head backward and really belt out the call.

Calling, flycatching, became very agitated and "defensive" to tape recording.

Habitat: Riparian cottonwood, willow, and hawthorne mixture

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

Virtually all empidonax look similar, but call was very distinctive. All visual field marks were only supportive. The short broad based bill, short primary extension, ~~contrasty~~ black wings, size and body proportions all supported the auidial identification.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Fairly comfortable with most western species of flycatcher. Have heard/seen a least on only 1 other occasion.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Advanced Birding - Kaufmann & Western Birds - Zimmer were the most help in visual i.d., but the National Geographic recording matched the call heard.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Probably the second

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

Photo may turn out? --- pending

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

Observer: CRAIG L. KNEEDY

Signature:

Address: 314 S. 4500 W.

West Point, Utah 84015



Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Bob Bond? Pat Somebody  
Stan Heath Sharon Somebody

Date prepared:

6/18/91

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen  
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West Valley City, Utah 84120