

11-1992

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VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Great Crested Flycatcher Scientific Name: Myiarchus CRINITUS

Date: Oct. 3, 1992 Time: 3¹⁵ pm Length of time observed: 2 1/2 min.

Number: 1 Age: Adult Sex: ?

Location: HEDGEROW OF RUSSIAN OLIVES WEST OF 314 S. 4500 W.
IN WEST POINT, DAVIS CO. UTAH

Latilong: Z Elevation (if known): 4230

Distance to bird: 20 METERS

Light conditions: Clear, SUN to my back

Optical equipment: BINOS 10x35

Weather: Cool/Clear - JUST AFTER MAJOR COLD FRONT HIT AREA

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

LARGE CRESTED FLYCATCHER Approx size & bulk of WESTERN Kingbird but w/ LONGER tail. Upperparts, ie: crest, nape, back, rump, & facial area were dark brownish green (dark olive). Throat & upper breast medium charcoal gray w/ a slight darkening on sides of breast. Lower breast through undertail coverts were a rich yellow (rivalling or surpassing the belly coloration of W. Kingbird). Wing coverts & tertials were dark brown, only slightly contrasting with back color. Greater & median coverts and tertials edged with buffy white. Primaries showed rufous flashing (both in flight and perched). Tail appeared dark brown while perched, from above, and rufous from below. In flight, tail had rufous flash when seen from above. Bill was fairly long & moderately broad. Bill was black in color except for the basal 1/3 of the lower mandible, which was flesh color. Legs & eyes were also black. The feature that caught my eye the most (or first) was the strong contrast between the dark throat & upper breast with the rich yellow belly, giving the bird a hooded appearance not unlike the ♂ McGillivray's Warbler. Also there seemed to be very little contrast between face coloration & throat color.

My field notes further describe the shade of throat & breast gray as about the same color that a #2 pencil would make.

A return to the area for the next 3 days with a camera FAILED to produce the bird AGAIN.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

NO SOUND MADE DURING OBSERVATION

Behavior: The bird had CAUGHT AN INSECT OVER A CORN FIELD AND LIT IN THE TOP OF A RUSSIAN OLIVE TO EAT IT (APPROX 15 FEET UP). AFTER EATING, THE BIRD BEGAN PREENING, SHOWING RUFES IN FLIGHT FEATHERS & TAIL. AFTER APPROX. 1 1/2 MIN., BIRD FLEW TO ADJACENT TREE AND WATCHED ME WATCHING IT, THEN AFTER APPROX. 1 MIN FLEW OUT OVER THE CORN FIELD, NOT TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

Habitat:

HEGGEROW OF RUSSIAN OLIVES ALONG A MARSHY SLOUGH. PATCH OF SEED CORN ALONG SOUTH SIDE OF SLOUGH & TREES, ALONG NORTH SIDE IS A POTATO FIELD.

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

ASH-THROATED FC - EVEN DURING THEIR FRESHEST & RICHEST PLUMAGE THEY AREN'T AS RICHLY & DARKLY COLORED AS THIS BIRD. ALSO THE BIRD HAD A LIGHT COLOR ON BASAL 1/3 OF MANDIBLE. THIS BIRD ALSO SEEMED BULKIER OVERALL THAN ATFC. THIS BIRD HAD A DEFINITE LINE OF DEMARCATION BETWEEN GRAY & YELLOW UNDERPARTS - ATFC HAVE MORE OF A 'FADE IN' FROM THROAT TO BREAST COLOR. FACE COLOR OF ATFC CONTRASTS MORE WITH THROAT COLOR

BROWN-CRESTED FC - ALL BIRDS THAT I'VE SEEN HAVE A HUGE (LONG & BROAD BASED) BILL, THEY ARE EVEN BULKIER BODIED THAN THIS BIRD. THE THROAT/BELLY CONTRAST ISN'T NEARLY AS NOTICEABLE WITH NEITHER THE GRAY OR YELLOW AS INTENSE.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

ATFC - MUCH EXPERIENCE, EVEN IN THEIR 'FRESH' FALL PLUMAGE

BCFC - HAVE SEEN THIS BIRD APPROX 5 TIMES IN BEAVER-DAM WASH.

GCFC - HAVE NEVER HAD EXPERIENCE WITH THIS BIRD.

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

ALL DESCRIPTIONS WERE TAKEN FROM NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC & KEVIN ZIMMER'S 'WESTERN BIRD WATCHER' WERE REFERENCES CONSULTED. ZIMMER HAS A GOOD COMPARISON OF THE MYIARCHUS FC'S

Significance of record in this area or the state:

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

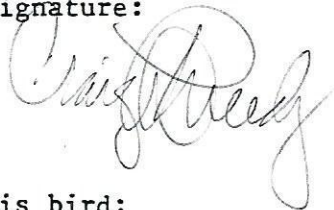
Description from notes taken at time of sighting notes made later from memory

Observer: CRAIG KNEEDY

34 S. 4500 W.

Address: WEST POINT, Utah
8405

Signature:



Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared: OCT. 9, 1992

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