

WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species: Number: (leave blank)

Location: Date: Time:

Bird Seen: To: Age/Sex:

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings **WILL NOT BE RETURNED** but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

Typical flycatcher appearance: Large headed, slender body and somewhat of a crested head. My first thought on initial sighting was a Great Crested.

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

Pale coloration, almost as if a washed out drab gray. I must point out that I observed two separate birds, and that this report covers descriptions of both birds. The bird that was slightly more vivid in coloration had lost its tail feathers. Both had the rusty cinnamon colored areas on the wings with white bars. The bird that has a tail showed that cinnamon color on the tail. There is an ever so lightly brushed area of yellow under the breast on the belly of each bird. Hopefully, details of coloration and the slight differences are evident in the photos I will be attaching.

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

Vocalizations were recorded, then sent to and analyzed by Wil Hershberger, who was able to compare recording with a data bank that confirmed the species. I will also include a copy of that recording for the committee to review. I want to point out that this recording is between the two birds, and not just one individual. Toward the end of the wav file it is more evident that they are vocalizing to each other.

Description of behavior:

Typical flycatcher behavior: perched on an outer limb or tree top to swoop down and out to catch insects on the fly. When perched, they frequently tilt their heads to the side. They also are very vocal most of the time they are observed.

Habitat: (General and Specific)

These birds have remained focused in an area of an orchard where apple trees have fruit remaining on the trees and fruit under the trees on the ground. I think that is what is harboring the insects on which they are feeding. There is also an adjoining grouping of small trees, shrubs and vines on a limestone rock break. I did observe one bird at that spot and it was feeding on Oriental Bittersweet berries.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

Previous experience with this species:

None.

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

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

Sibley's guide, 2nd edition

Crossley's guide

www.allaboutbirds.org

iBirdPro App

recording was made using the Merlin App (Samsung Smartphone)

Initial photos and data were sent to Derek Courtney

Wav file from Merlin App recording was sent to Wil Hershberger

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? **one week**

Name:

N. Wade Snyder

Address:

[REDACTED]

Date:

December 06, 2022

Signature:

[REDACTED]

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee

Attn: Wil Hershberger

170 Stallion Ct.

Hedgesville, WV 25427

Or E-mail to:

wilhershberger@mac.com

Please use the space below to add any appropriate details you feel were missing from the above form or to expand on any answers whose allotted space was insufficient for a complete response:



















