

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

1. Name: Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*
2. Number: one of unknown age and sex
3. Locality: Louisiana; Plaquemines Parish; across Hwy. 23 from the woods just downriver from Ft. Jackson
4. Date: 30 December 2000
5. Time: 11:50, 12:02, 12:45 all CST
6. Reporting observer: B. Mac. Myers III 5660 Ada Pl.-rear apt. New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Accompanying observers: Phillip A. Wallace and I originally found and identified the bird; later R. Dan Purrington, James Beck and Lee Ellis returned with us and saw the bird
8. Independent observers: Marty Guidry (with D. Bruce Crider and Karen Fay??) saw the bird several days later
9. Light conditions: variable, but at times excellent
10. Optics: 10x40 Zeiss in good condition
11. Distance: often 60-80 yds., at times much farther; briefly within about 30 yds.
12. Duration: three separate observations; total time, including more distant views more than 15 minutes (perhaps much more)
13. Habitat: grass, forbs, small shrubs around the edges of a borrow pit pond
14. Behavior: usually sitting on an exposed perch, generally rather low, from 1 to 8 ft. above ground; made several flights to catch flying insects; most interesting was the fact that the bird on several occasions hovered for extended periods (30 seconds or more), at an elevation of 2-5 ft., and would then dart out from its hover, apparently pursuing insects; the bird was not really skittish, but it was wary of close approach; this made it difficult to photograph, and it probably saved the bird's life, as well.

15. Description: It was an obvious tyrant flycatcher, approximately the size of nearby E. Phoebe. The bill was small and dark. The overall dorsal coloration was a medium gray with perhaps a slight tan or pale brown cast to the back, lighter than E. Phoebe. The wings were a similar gray, perhaps slightly darker, with only the faintest of lighter edging to the coverts, not really wingbars. The crown was darker gray. The tail was black, seemed longer than E. Phoebe, was square when fanned, was somewhat reminiscent of Western Kingbird in its contrast with the upperparts. The throat and breast were dingy gray. The belly and undertail coverts were a tawny-buff. This color was not nearly as bright as is generally depicted in field guides.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species: This is a pretty distinctive species. I suppose the bird which is most likely to be confused with it is female Vermilion Flycatcher which differs in having a fairly prominent facial pattern, paler throat and breast with some streaking on the underparts, usually fairly obvious wingbar(s), smaller size and shorter tail.

18. Photographs: Dan Purrington obtained some videotape which he will send to the committee.

19. Previous experience: I have seen moderate numbers out west, most recently 1988 in the Southwest and in 1999 I saw one near Nome, AK

20. Aids: none at the time of first sighting; later many books including Pyle, trying to get an idea what subspecies might be involved

21. Description: made from notes made in the field

22. Yes, I am positive of the identification

23. *B. Mac. Myers III*

24. 13 March 2001 14:38 CST

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Rare Bird Report Form

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to ensure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach fieldnotes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: SAY'S PHOEBE (SAYORNIS SAYA)
2. Number of individuals, age, sex, general plumage (e. g., "2 adult males in alternate <breeding> plumage"): 1 ADULT PLUMAGED BIRD
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: PLAQUEMINES
(parish)
VENICE
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: 12/30/00
5. Time(s) of day when observed: APPROXIMATELY 12:30 - 1:00 PM
6. Reporting observer and address:
JAMES BECK
6216 WILTY ST.
METAIRIE, LA 70003
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
PHILLIP WALLACE, MAC MYERS, DAN PURRINGTON, LEE ELLIS
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
MARTY GUIBRY, KAREN FAY, BRUCE CRIDER
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): BIRD VIEWED BOTH WITH BACKLIT CONDITIONS AND FRONTLIT AS WELL
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
SWIFT 10X42, GOOD CONDITION
11. Distance to bird(s): VARIED BETWEEN CA. 20 FT - 50 YARDS
12. Duration of observation: CA. 15 MINUTES

13. Habitat: MAN-MADE POND SURROUNDED WITH BRUSH AND ROSEAUX (SPELLING?, SPECIES?) CANE, WHICH WAS BORDERED BY TALLOW STANDS.
14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding the observation): BIRD WAS STEADILY WORKING ITS WAY ALONG THE EDGE OF THE POND, HOVERING AT TIMES, AND THEN PAUSING TO PERCH ON STALKS.
15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; if possible, give details on total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species. Attach additional pages as necessary): BROWNISH ABOVE, LIGHTER ON THROAT AND MANTLE, DARKER WINGS. BLACK TAIL. TAWNY BELLY AND UNDERTAIL COVERTS. BILL AND LEGS BLACK. APPEARED A BIT LARGER THAN EASTERN PHOEBE (S. PHOEBE). TYPICAL FLY CATCHER POSTURE.
16. Voice: N/A
17. Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?): EASTERN PHOEBE - LACKS TAWNY ON BELLY AND UNDERTAIL; LIGHTER UPPER BREAST.
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALLACE, VIDED FOOTAGE BY DAN PURRINGTON
19. Previous experience with this species: SEEN ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN ARIZONA IN 1994, 1996 AND 1999. ALSO SEEN IN BIG BEND, TEXAS IN 1995.
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
a. at time of observation: N/A
b. after observation: N/A
21. This description is written from: ___ notes made during the observation; ___ notes made after the observation (date: _____); memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification (if not, then explain?): YES
23. Signature of reporter: James W. Bale 1/12/01
(date)

**LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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REPORT FORM**

1. **Common and scientific name:** Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 1 adult
3. **Locality: State (Louisiana) Parish: Plaquemines**
Exact Location: Across Hwy. 23 from the woods below Ft. Jackson
4. **Date(s) seen:** December 30, 2000
5. **Time(s) of day seen:** 11:40 a.m.-12:10 p.m.; 1:00-1:10 p.m.
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Phillip Wallace
4515 S. Prieur St.
New Orleans, LA 70125-5044
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:** Mac Myers, Dan Purrington, James Beck, Lee Ellis
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** None
9. **Light conditions:** Good to excellent. Sun behind observer for most of the observation.
10. **Optical equipment:** Zeiss 10x40 bins
11. **Distance to the bird:** 15-30 yards
12. **Duration of observation:** 15-20 minutes
13. **Habitat (general and specific):** In scrub at edge of pond/borrow pit.
14. **Behavior:** Perching, feeding, flying. The bird favored perches 3-4 feet high at the edge of the pond. When feeding the bird would sally out from the perch and flutter/hover looking for prey. While hovering, the bird held its body at a 30-40 degree angle relative to horizontal.
15. **Description:**
Size and General Impression The bird was a small to medium size flycatcher, which seemed more slender and longer-tailed than Eastern Phoebe. The overall impression was of a longer bird than E. Phoebe.

Head and Upper Parts The head and upperparts were a light to medium gray color, with the head appearing slightly darker than the back and clearly darker than the throat and upper breast.

Wings The wings were also gray.

Underparts The breast and throat were a paler shade of gray than the upper parts. The belly, vent, and undertail coverts were a pale rusty color.

Tail The long black tail contrasted sharply with the gray back. This was one of the most striking features of the bird and called to mind the contrast between the black tail and gray back of a Western Kingbird.

Bill The bill was dark.

Eye Not noted

Legs Not noted.

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species and how they were eliminated: There are no real ID contenders, although a female Vermilion Flycatcher can initially be confused with this species. This bird was larger and had a different shape from a Vermilion. The rust color of the underparts was different from the more salmon color of a Vermilion.

18. Photographs? Purrington videotaped the bird.

19. Previous experience with this species: I have seen the species once in Texas.

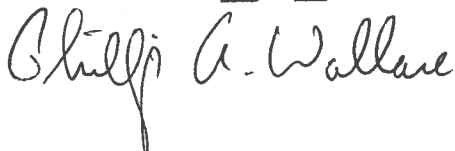
20. Aids used in identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: Sibley

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation;
_____ notes made after observation; x from memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? yes

23. Signature of reporter: 

24. Date and time of writing this account: December 31, 2000
5:00 p.m.