

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1994-037

Name of bird form: Ash-throated Flycatcher

Committee member name: Fraker

Date of review: 9/30/18

Circulation number: 3rd

Vote: A-S

Comments: [required as this is a 3rd circulation] Mostly I am standing by the observer's skill and confidence as before noted and I am still voting to accept.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1994-037

Name of bird form: Ash-throated Flycatcher

Committee member name: Walter Marcisz

Date of review: 10-21-18

Circulation number: 3rd

Vote: A-S (1)

Comments: [required as this is a 3rd circulation]

I voted to reject in the first circulation, but after my issue with the date of the sighting was resolved I voted to accept in the second circulation. I still believe this is a solid documentation, and I have not been swayed by the arguments presented by the reviewers that voted to reject. I again vote to accept.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1994-037

Name of bird form: Ash-throated Flycatcher

Committee member name: McMullen

Date of review: 10-19-18

Circulation number: 3rd

Vote: U-I

Comments: [required as this is a 3rd circulation]

Same comments as before. Other good birders were hesitant to commit to the ID of Ash-throated Flycatcher.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1994-037

Name of bird form: Ash-throated Flycatcher

Committee member name: Adam Sell

Date of review: 9/30/18

Circulation number: 3rd

Vote: A-S

Comments: After reviewing more examples of fresh examples of cinerascens, I've been convinced. The documentation of this bird was thorough in every other way.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1994-037

Name of bird form: Ash-throated Flycatcher

Committee member name: Douglas Stotz

Date of review: 24 October 2018

Circulation number: 3rd

Vote: A-S(1)

Comments: [required as this is a 3rd circulation] I continue to favor accepting this record. The great detail provided, and the fact that Paul is a very careful observer, sway me.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1994-037

Name of bird form: Ash-throated Flycatcher

Committee member name: Paul Sweet

Date of review: 10/28/18

Circulation number: 3rd

Vote: A-S(1)

Comments: [required as this is a 3rd circulation]

I haven't seen anything in the comments to change my mind here.

IORC EVALUATION FORM

Record #: 1994-037

Name of bird form: Ash-throated Flycatcher

Committee member name: Geoffrey A. Williamson

Date of review: 16 September 2018

Circulation number: 3rd

Vote: A-S(1)

Comments: [required as this is a 3rd circulation]

I feel that this is a high quality written documentation presenting a pretty solid identification of the bird as an Ash-throated Flycatcher, and my vote remains to accept.

Adam Sell replaced Josh Engel on the committee between rounds 1 and 2, and this vote flipped from accept to not accept. I want to respond to a couple of Adam's points.

First, he mentions that certain points "seem well developed in retrospect instead of during field viewing." This strikes me as odd. My experience with Paul Clyne is his being a meticulous observer in the field, who makes a record of the details of his observations during the field observation itself or shortly thereafter. His documentations typically reflect this, as does this one. He is careful to distinguish between what was observed and any post-observation interpretation. With respect to underpart coloration, his description of what was observed at the time is clear. It is candidly noted that the appearance of the underparts was potentially problematic for identification as Ash-throated, though also noted as not being a good fit for Great Crested. Follow up investigations by Clyne and others (Sherman Suter) are described in detail, along with Clyne's interpretations of these. Overall, I find these aspects of Clyne's observations and documentation to be a strength: he is making careful observations in the field and recording what he sees, and not influencing the documented appearance of the bird in retrospect. I find everything in this documentation that happens in retrospect to be analysis and interpretation of observational details that were clearly recorded at the time of the sighting, and this is how we should want it to be.

Second, Adam mentions the failure of the documentation to provide much detail about the pattern of the tertials. I agree with Adam that a description of the tertial pattern would be very helpful. However, I am not as surprised as Adam that it is not there. One must keep in mind that this was 1994. Perhaps the most accessible discussion of Myiarchus identification that was available at the time was in Zimmer (1985). Zimmer makes no mention of the differences in tertial pattern in his discussion. Dittmann and Cardiff (2000) provided a lot of good information about Myiarchus identification, but that work came out six years after this observation. They noted that the field guides at that time (the year 2000) and especially those from earlier were subpar, indicating for instance that Sibley (2000), which had just come out in 2000, fails to accurately depict tertial patterns while noting that the National Geographic field guide (Dunn (1999)), then in its 3rd edition did better. In 1994, the National Geographic Guide was in only its 1st edition, and good depictions of much detail in Myiarchus flycatchers first appeared in

much later editions. So yes, it is a shame that Clyne did not record details about the tertials, but at the time it was not broadly understood that one should be paying attention to details of the tertials.

Though I've said all this in response to Adam's comments, I want to be clear that I have no inherent problems with either a vote to reject because (in part) the implications of certain features were not known to the documenter during the observation or with a vote to reject (in part) because the tertials were not described. My reading of Adam's remarks suggests to me that he was thinking something beyond this, and in the event that my reading has some substance, I wanted to present my differing view.

Literature cited:

Dittman, D.L. and S.W. Cardiff (2000). Let's take another look: Myiarchus flycatchers. *LOS News*, no. 193, December 2000.

Dunn, J.L. (1999). *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, 3rd edition. National Geographic Society, April 1999.

Sibley, D.A. (2000). *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, 1st edition. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., October 2000.

Zimmer, K.J. (1985). *The Western Bird Watcher*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1985.