

IORC DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

UNUSUAL SPECIES

1 SPECIES Ash-throated Flycatcher

2 NO OF BIRDS 1

AGE, SEX, PLUMAGE adult (based on vocalization, but if juveniles vocalize then age unknown)

3 DATE(S) August 24 2012

4 LOCATION (INCL. COUNTY) Greene Valley FP DuPage County

5 NAME Bob Fisher

MAILING ADDRESS [REDACTED]

PHONE [REDACTED]

OTHERS AGREEING WITH ID No one else present

OBSERVERS NOT AGREEING WITH ID NA

6 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION The bird was smaller and slimmer but looked longer tailed than nearby robins. The bill was dark. Head was gray, with a slight hump or crest at the rear. The throat and breast were a dirty white, and the belly and undertail coverts looked pale, sort of a washed out yellow color. The nape and mantle were gray. Wing bars were present, but were washed out and dingy looking; the wing coverts appeared to be the same color as the mantle. There was a rufous edge on the folded primaries. The legs were black. The undertail was only visible briefly, and looked reddish. The upper surface of the tail was a drab, dark gray brown.

7 DESCRIPTION OF BEHAVIOR Foraging in the company of robins in a stand of small black cherry trees

8 DESCRIPTION OF VOCALIZATION Listen to attached mP3 sound file

9 DESCRIPTION OF IMMEDIATE AND SURROUNDING HABITATS A shrubby area with small trees adjacent to a field filled with goldenrod and a few isolated shrubs and small trees.

10 VIEWING CONDITIONS

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT Swarovski 10x42 binos

DISTANCE/HOW MEASURED as close as 20 feet, estimated.

TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION just after 10AM

TOTAL TIME OF OBSERVATION 2-3 minutes, less than 10 seconds in plain view on top of one of the small trees. Most of the time it was active among the tree branches.

WEATHER/SKY CONDITIONS/RELATIVE POSITION OF SUN A clear sunny day; almost all my viewing was with the sun behind me.

11 PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES I've seen good numbers of this species during several trips to Arizona and Texas. Have seen numerous Great-crested Flycatchers here in Illinois and in Wisconsin over the years, and have seen Brown-crested on several occasions in both Arizona and south Texas. Only saw 1 Dusky capped and have never seen La Sagra's.

12 REASONS FOR ELIMINATING OTHER SIMILAR SPECIES OR HYBRIDS

I eliminated all the other lookalikes based on the vocalizations, which I was able to capture on my small digital recorder, transfer to my computer and then create the mP3 sound file.

13 WERE PHOTOS OBTAINED? No

14 BOOKS AND ILLUSTRATIONS CONSULTED, AND ADVICE RECEIVED.

Most of my follow up research was accessing various available sound files for Ash-throated available on the internet, mostly at the xeno-canto site.

HOW DID THIS INFLUENCE THIS DESCRIPTION? Did not

15 HOW LONG AFTER OBSERVATION WERE FIELD NOTES RECORDED?

The recording was made on the spot, as were my field notes on how the bird looked (recorded on the same digital recorder)

16 HOW LONG AFTER OBSERVATION WAS THIS FORM COMPLETED?

31 days

17 ADDITIONAL REMARKS I'm providing this sound file in support of Mike Madsen's extensive documentation of this bird. Though we did not see/hear the bird on the same day, nor in precisely in the same location (though the 2 locations are only a couple hundred feet apart), Mike's description of the sounds and his auditory memory when listening to my recording are confirmation we had the same species in our view/hearing. It's rather unlikely at best there being 2 Ash-throateds present at Greene Valley.

Thanks to Melinda Born Chapman, who actually relocated the bird and phoned me to suggest I look for it.

SIGNED Bob Fisher

DATE September 25, 2012