

Season: Summer Year: 1981Name and
address
(print
or type)

James P. Sandrock

1634 Morningside Drive

Iowa City, IA 52240

Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to: T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City IA 52240 by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

use initials of obsv. on species line

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
This report is based on longer birding trips in Van Buren County on the following dates: June 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 28; July 12, 18. Most of the sightings were at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, Shimek Forest (partly in Lee County), and Roberts Riverside Park. I shall note other locations; unusual conditions, etc., in the report. Abbreviations are LK (Lacey-Keosauqua SP); SF (Shimek Forest); RRP (Roberts Riverside Park).			
✓ Turkey Vulture		All Dates	Very common in SE Iowa. On 6 June saw over 40 above Ely Ford, LK.
Red-tailed Hawk	1	6 June	LK
Kestrel	1	2 July	Birmingham, IA
	1	18 July	RRP
Bob-white			Common; every trip in LK, SF, RRP
Wild Turkey	1	13 June	LK (at edge of wooded area) obs. Jody Sandrock.
	2	28 June	LK (in meadow area)
Killdeer	1	6 June	LK (sandbar in Des Moines River)
Mourning Dove			Abundant throughout county.
Chimney Swift			Daily at RRP.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			Observed every trip in June at LK; 13, 20 June SF.
Black-billed Cuckoo		27 June	LK obs. Jody Sandrock
Common Flicker			Seen every trip; common RRP.
Red-bellied Woodpecker		13 June	SF obs. Jody Sandrock; but frequent RRP.
Red-headed Woodpecker			Abundant in Van Buren County; Seen everywhere.
Hairy Woodpecker	1	20 June	RRP obs. Jody Sandrock.
Downy Woodpecker			Seen every trip to LK, SF.
Eastern Kingbird			Common throughout area.
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	7 June	LK
	1	11 July	RRP

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Eastern Pewee			Common throughout area.
✓ Eastern Phoebe			Individuals seen 14, 27, 28 June; 12 July LK; 20 June SF
Acadian Flycatcher			Every trip to LK -- esp. Ely Ford area.
✓ Alder Flycatcher	1	12 July	See attached documentation sheet.
✓ Least Flycatcher	Sev- eral	28 June	LK
		12 July	LK
✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	28 June	RRP.
✓ Say's Phoebe (?)	1	7 June	RRP; at approximately 10:30 a.m. Clear, warm day. Bird on tree in a dry wash About the size of a robin (slightly smaller); quite drab - gray head and back; blackish tail; very slight wing bars; black bill; whitish breast with rusty wash. I did not hear song; observation time very short.
Rough-winged Swallow			Common over Des Moines River.
Barn Swallow			Common, RRP.
Blue Jay			Common in area.
American Crow			I was surprised to observe so few crows in area. Seen only on 20, 27 June and 12, 18 July.
? Tufted Titmouse		6,13,14, 20 June	LK. On 14 June saw nesting pair in woods near dam on lake.
Black-capped Chickadee		6,7,14, 20, 21 June	LK; SF.
White-breasted Nuthatch		6,7,28 June; 12 July.	LK
✓ Brown Creeper	1	19 June	RRP obs. Jody Sandrock.
House Wren			Very common--even abundant in LK, SF, RRP.
✓ Northern Mockingbird	1	27 June	SF obs. Jody Sandrock
Gray Catbird			Common in all locations.

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SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Brown Thrasher			Common in all locations.
American Robin			Common in all locations.
Wood Thrush	1	27 June	SF obs. Jody Sandrock.
	1	12 July	LK
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	27 June	LK obs. Jody Sandrock.
Eastern Bluebird			Common in area of RRP. Lit on our feeder there.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			Abundant on all trips; all locations.
Cedar Waxwing		6,7,20 June	LK
European Starling			Abundant.
Red-eyed Vireo			Observed on every trip; common in RRP.
Warbling Vireo			A number nesting in Ely Ford area LK; common RRP.
Black and White Warbler	1	6 June	LK obs. Darwin Koenig.
Prothonotary Warbler	1	6 June	LK (Ely Ford - near bridge) obs. Darwin Koenig.
Blue-winged Warbler	1	6 June	LK obs. Darwin Koenig.
Northern Parula			Observed every trip to LK (at Ely Ford) in some numbers. Nesting (?) In July regularly seen in RRP.
Cerulean Warbler			Obs. every trip to LK (Ely Ford area) 10-12 (Nesting?)
Ovenbird			Frequently heard LK.
Yellow-throated Warbler			At least 3 singing at Ely Ford every trip. As you know 1 or 2 in RRP regularly since 11 April. Still there on 19 July.
Common Yellowthroat		27 June	SF obs. Jody Sandrock. I was amazed how infrequently I even heard this bird in the area all summer.

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SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
House Sparrow			Abundant everywhere at all times!
Eastern Meadowlark	1	6 June	RRP.
Western Meadowlark		6,7,13, 14, 20 June	Van Buren County.
Red-winged Blackbird			They're taking over the world!
Northern Oriole			Abundant throughout area; nesting LK, RRP.
Rusty Blackbird		14 June	LK
		21 June	RRP.
Common Grackle			Not all that abundant in rural areas of county.
Brown-headed Cowbird			Common at all locations.
✓ Summer Tanager	1	14 June	RRP, in tree on edge of farm pond.
Northern Cardinal			Abundant at all locations.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			Common throughout area.
Indigo Bunting			Common throughout area.
Dickcissel			First one obs. on 14 June; thereafter common.
American Goldfinch			Common throughout area.
✓ Rufous-sided Towhee	10-12	27 June	SF obs. Jody Sandrock.
Grasshopper Sparrow			Frequent in field at RRP.
Chipping Sparrow			Abundant at RRP.
×? Clay-colored Sparrow	1	27 June	RRP.
×? Harris' Sparrow	1	27 June	RRP.
	1	13 July	RRP. obs. Donna Sandrock.
White-crowned Sparrow	1	20 June	LK.
	1	18 July	Leando Cemetery, E. of Leando, IA.

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[illegible]

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Alder Flycatcher (Empidonax alnorum) 2. Number 1
3. Location Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, Van Buren County, Iowa.
4. Date: 12 July 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:45 a.m. to 8:50 a.m.
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
"Small, Empidonax species; brown with light wing bars (2); black bill; slight eye-ring; white neck; whitish breast with tawny sides. Song: -- see-bee-o (Accent on 2nd syllable). About 10 yards away on low branch of shrub - bird about 6' off ground; near creek and puddles in path. Creek about 10 yards away."
Quoted from notes made at sighting.
7. Description of voice, if heard: see-bee-o; accent on 2nd syllable which was higher in pitch. Heard bird sing four or five times.
8. Description of behavior: Bird simply sat on end of branch. Did not flit out and return to branch while I was observing.
9. Habitat - general: Forested area (near Ely Ford in Lacey-Keosauqua SP).
specific: Low shrub about 10 yards from creek at edge of forest area.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
I eliminated Least and Acadian Flycatchers because of song primarily; also this bird was browner than other Empidonax I am familiar with.
11. Distance (how measured)?
Estimated
12. Optical equipment:
Bushnell binoculars; 7 x 35
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Hot, clear, muggy day. The sun was directly on bird from 3 o'clock; I was about 75° right of bird from that point. * Excellent lighting and view of bird.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
I have never seen Alder Flycatcher before, but have seen Least; Acadian; Yellow-bellied Flycatchers of Empidonax complex plus the more obvious Eastern Pewee; Phoebe; etc.
15. Other observers:
None.
16. Did the others agree with your identification? N/A
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: N/A
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Looked in Petersen's Guide and Roberts' Birds of North America after identifying species for confirmation.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
After sighting bird I made notes quoted above. Form in draft on same day.
- Signature: James P. Sandrock Address: 1634 Morningside Drive
- Date: 29 July 1981 City, State: Iowa City, IA 52240