

great crested flycatcher

547 - 01-1992

Bernville CBC

Jan 1992

Mike Slater, Compiler

2nd-observer, long-winded details
on great crested flycatcher (^{full ad. plumage}) located and
identified by Ed Barret on count day

observer: Dean Kendall; date: 5 Jan '92;
time: 1:30 pm, 3 pm; location: off Penn-
bern rd. on state gamelands adjacent on
the n. to Blue Marsh Lake (about 100 yds
from where Barret found the bird on Jan. 1);
weather: mild ($10^{\circ}44^{\circ}$), windy (N, 10-25),
overcast, to partly sunny, ^{from} mid-afternoon on.

the bird 1st made its presence known
by giving out 6-8 loud 'Weep's' (indistin-
guishable from the tape-recording of its call
that i was carrying in my pocket) within
the space of 20 or so seconds, at a distance
of little if any more than 50'. quietly/slowly
rounding the corner i found the bird
maybe 100' off, where it was flycatching
low to the ground on the leeward side of
an extensive stand of pines (~100 yds.
from where Barret found the bird on Jan. 1)
where it abutted a low-grass/weedy field.
it soon doubled the distance between
us (moving down along the pines' edge, still
flycatching), but with 7x binos while
closer, and then using 20x WIDE stock-mount

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slope, i was able to note (besides size and build) deep olive head/back and dark grey throat; and especially while in flight, that the yellow of belly was quite pronounced; it also appeared (from above, but with tail spread) that the reddish of webs reached all the way to the tips. this was at about 1:30 pm, with full overcast (but fairly bright). the bird soon (all told during this period i had it in sight maybe 10 min.s.) became leery of me and circled wide, out around me and back to its starting pt. circling back then myself, but back thru the pines, i approached again as i had previously. not finding the bird i moved slowly down along our former route and shortly spotted it flying low (maybe 3' above the ground, 1' above grass tops; 100 or so yds ahead of me) out over the field to a thicket, upon reaching the edge of which it fairly flung itself straight down and out of sight.

that's the last i saw of it this 1st sighting, tho i spent a further half hr. or so slowly traversing the vicinity. i let it be then, not wanting to further disrupt its feeding and unlikely to get a better look at it in any case, and went off back to where i'd parked my truck.

after some dallying, about 3 pm

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i decided to leave, but to first give a try driving the truck to where i'd first found the bird, on the off chance it had come back and would take less alarm at a vehicle. i drove slowly up around and coasted in, and ... there it was. it flew up landing on a bare branch no more than '10' off, where it sat + facing me (thru 7x binos) for a full 2 mins. or so, before proceeding on its flycatching rounds down along the pines (higher off the ground this time; maybe the sun's sudden warmth having brought the bugs up, as the sun had meanwhile broken thru - and was shining full on the bird, from behind me and a bit to the side)

descriptn: (as per illus./descriptn in the Nat. Geog. fieldguide, in every particular save edging of coverts/secondaries to my eye + white (rather than yellowish), contrast btwn. breast and belly not quite so outstanding (tho still much more so than the other 3 Myiarchus), and yellow of belly not quite so deep and bright (tho again, quite deep in relation to pale yellow of other 3); only the extreme base of lower mandible pale in color (and not particularly orange/ perhaps more pinkish or horn):

great crested size and build, including that of bill; dark olive above on head and

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back, with bushy crest; dark grey throat and breast, with olive at sides of lower breast; fairly bright, fairly deep yellow belly/undertail, in definite (tho not sharp, nor exceptionally strong) contrast with grey/olive of throat/breast; greater and median wing coverts and secondaries brightly edged with ± white; reddish edgings on the feathers of the outer mid-portion of folded wing (proximal half of primaries and/or outer secondaries); seen from below, entire inner webs of tail feathers reddish all the way to the tips; upper tail (folded) brown with reddish highlights (in flight, ^{repeatedly over short periods, but} ^{thereafter silent).} showing reddish edges its full length); bill (save for extreme base of lower mandible, which is pale-pinkish?) and legs black.

Call that was given, ^{once only,} a loud whistled wheep.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**Species: **Great Crested Flycatcher**Date of Sighting: **1 January 1992 to 6 January 1992**Observer(s): **Dean Kendall**Date of Submission: **1992**Submitted by: **Dean Kendall**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Bon Haas

Date:

2-27-93