

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2013-11-17 20:19:24
Observer's Name	David Allen
E-mail	dallen0@gmail.com
Observer's Address	Street Address: 2207 Catharine St City: Philadelphia State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 19146 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Tony Crossdale, Todd Fellenbaum, Frank Winfelder, George Armistead, and others
Species (Common Name)	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus forficatus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	adult, likely female
Observation Date and Time	11-16-2013 2:20 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S15682731
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Phildelphia
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Bartram's Garden
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.932738,-75.210624
Habitat	Brushy field
Distance to bird	25 to 100 yards
Viewing conditions	Partly sunny to partly cloudy
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 7x42 SLC
Description	<p>I first spotted the bird, approximately 40 yards away and out of the corner of my eye, as it flew to perch on a small shrub in the meadow. I immediately noted bold flashes of black and white, and my initial impression was Northern Mockingbird. When I put my binoculars on the bird, I was fairly stunned by what I found. The bird was perched in perfect side profile. I noted the pale gray head with dark eye line; light chest and belly with warm pink flanks; and of course the unmistakable</p>

long, stiffly held tail. I noted 3 black lobed feathers on the tail with white on the lateral edge. From what I observed, the bird appeared to be an adult in clean plumage. The white edges of the dark wing feathers were clean and crisp. The tail feathers also appeared intact and neat. The tail appeared to be approximately the length of the bird's body.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

From approximately 2:20 to 2:45, the bird was actively flycatching from small brush in the field and occasionally taller trees on the field edge. It would frequently drop low to the ground and even stay on the ground briefly. At one point, the flycatcher made its way into the gardens and fed on a small berry tree before returning to the field. From 2:45 to approximately 3:45 pm, as the sun set and the temperature dropped, the bird mainly stayed perched in trees on the field edge. At 3:45, the bird flew high over the treeline to the southwest.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes. Great, extended views of unmistakable tail and plumage

After

Sibley

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[2013-11-16 15.28.56.jpg](#)

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2013-11-18 11:48:57
Observer's Name	George Armistead
E-mail	armistead.george@gmail.com
Observer's Address	Country: United States
Names of additional observers	David Allen, Tony Croasdale, Todd Fellenbaum, Frank Windfelder, and others
Species (Common Name)	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus forficatus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	adult
Observation Date and Time	11-16-2013 3:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S15682341
County	Philadelphia
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Philadelphia
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Bartram's Garden
Distance to bird	220 feet
Viewing conditions	overcast, windless,
Optical equipment used	Leica ultravids 10x42, Leica 82mm televid telescope
Description	See photo in eBird and uploaded video
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	feeding on pokeberry and insects
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	yes, distinctive bird, very familiar with the species.
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Video
Upload images, audio, video or	STFLvid 1 11-16-13 Bartram's Garden.mov