

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2014-10-26 20:11:26
Observer's Name	Timothy Becker
E-mail	tjbecker81@aol.com
Phone	717-919-3716
Observer's Address	Street Address: 10283 Jonestown Rd City: Grantville State / Province: Pa Postal / Zip Code: 17028 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Michael Murphy, Kathy Becker, Rebekah Bollinger
Species (Common Name)	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus forficatus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Probable adult female based on relatively short tail, and strong pinkish wash to sides of lower breast
Observation Date and Time	10-26-2014 5:10 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/pa/view/checklist?subID=S20345725
County	Lebanon
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Newmanstown area
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	10 N. Fort Zellers Rd, just north of intersection with Rte 419, south of Newmanstown
GPS coordinates of sighting	N 40.349242, W -76.226867
Habitat	Farm land with open pasture and tree lines, lots of pasture fences
Distance to bird	30 feet
Viewing conditions	clear day
Optical equipment used	Nikon Monarch 8-power bins
Description	Long totally split tail that was black with white outer edging. Black wings. Light gray head and back. White upper breast with pink wash to lower sides of breast.

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

Moved between pasture fences, wires, and trees. At one point chased by a Mockingbird. Also observed bathing by splashing into a small stream repeatedly from a low pasture wire. Split tail fully spread when it was alighting back onto the wire after these ablutions.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Nothing else is really very similar, other than a Fork-tailed Flycatcher or, with a good bit of imagination, a Mockingbird. Mockingbirds do not have the split tail, and one was observed chasing the Scissor-tailed from a tree. Fork-taileds are black on the head, back and wings, without the pink wash to the lower belly.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Excellent photos were obtained by Michael Murphy on the previous day, 10/25/14, and submitted with his ebird report at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20340097>

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

Yes. following up on a previously reported and photographed bird. And nothing else looks like it.

After

The Sibley Guide to Birds

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