

RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Vermillion Flycatcher
Date: 16 December 2012
Time of observation: seen perched and in flight for about 3 minutes, approximately at 11 AM
Location: SE corner of Lake Avalon, Eddy County, New Mexico

Local status of species: Common breeder at Rattlesnake Springs and at a few other sites in that area, seen occasionally in winter there. Otherwise in the county uncommon elsewhere. Two other winter records away from Rattlesnake Springs (Lake McMillan and Lake Carlsbad).

Observer(s) names and address(es): Steve West
1105 Ocotillo Canyon Drive
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Observation details:
Distance from bird: as close 3-5 meters
Viewing conditions: excellent, bird seen at some distance and then flew toward me, pausing overhead for a moment before dropping to a dead cocklebur stem. Bird seen at all angles.

Optics: 8 X 40,
Weather, sky cover: clear
Photo? no Video ? no

Past experience with this species: First seen by this observer on 1 January 1964, seen in subsequent years hundreds of time if not in the low thousands. Seen (this subspecies and others) throughout Latin America.

References/sources used for ID: I had on hand the National Geographic guide, 4th edition although I knew the ID of the individual as soon as I saw the bird.

Notes: on the back of this form please provide complete details on this observation. Please provide information as to how you decided it was this species and eliminated similar forms.

Signature: _____ (Steve West) Date: 27 December 2012

Please send form to Steve West, 1105 Ocotillo Canyon, Carlsbad, NM 88220 or email to wthrsswift@gmail.com

This bird was first seen in flight as it approached me. Seeing the flycatcher flight, I assumed it might be a phoebe as they are frequently found in the flooded area of salt cedars at the SE corner of Lake Avalon. It flew overhead, paused for a moment and then landed a few meters away on a dead cocklebur stem. I observed it as it flew up grabbed an insect and then landed. It stayed there for a short time and then flew away to the west along the shore of the lake.

The individual was slightly smaller than a phoebe. The back was all brown and had a thin white eye-line. The upper breast of the bird was finely streaked with brown streaks. The lower abdomen was a pale salmon color with a bit of this same color on the vent. Tail and bill black.

Similar species:

All other flycatchers have distinguishing marks other than this species.