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APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: American Swallowtailed Kite; *Elanoides forficatus*
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 5/13/84 Time Bird Seen: 6:00 AM to 7:30 AM

Locality: along Republican River in Bonny Reservoir State Park
Near Idalia, Yuma County, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 12x40 Nikon binoculars / 25x Lens on Bushnell Scope master Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: adult

Light conditions: early morning sunlight initially poor later excellent clean day

Distance from bird, and how measured: 100 yds to 440 yds estimated by later pacing distance from viewpoint road to

Describe the bird's overall behavior: the river
Generally flying up & down Republican River just over treetop level. Very little use of flapping of wings, except when gaining altitude - primarily soaring or gliding using tail to bank & change directions. Occasionally circled higher directly overhead in ~~which~~ ^{seen} flight.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Along heavily wooded area along Republican River. Area flood forming grassy marsh along river.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Jack Reddall 4450 S Alton Englewood CO 80111

APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Color - Black & white only colors. ~~Red~~ White head, neck, belly, upper underwings. Rest of body Black - in lower underwing, back, tail, bill, & upper wings.

Shape. long graceful appearance of wings clearly pointed / tail clearly forked -

Bill - deeply forked - wings appeared long & tail appeared long.

Size - black Kestrel's bill - slightly decurved - not large in relation to bird's size

Size - longer than Kestrel - about size of a small HARRIC.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Immature Magnificent Frigatebird - ~~all~~ white from head down neck through under tail coverts; No black in this area at all. Magnificent Frigatebird (unlikely this far inland) would as immature have some black on either head & belly, or under tail coverts. See Harrison's Seabirds.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

None - but despite my knowing better - "It's not about one can easily mistake."

This report was written from notes made during after observation; from memory .

Name (print) : Victor M Zerbi Jr

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Signature: Victor M Zerbi

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
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City Park
Denver, CO 80205