

Vermilion Flycatcher

Pyrocephalus rubinus

April 5, 01

Belmar Park, 800 So. Ohio

Lakewood

Jefferson County 5300'

Observed: 0915-1130. Found by Mark Chavez; also seen by Warren Finch, Jim Schmoker overcast, then sun; frontal sun at 25-100 ft. Total observ. time 20 minutes.

Equip.: 8 x 56 bino, Kowa scope

Hab./behavior: urban park with small, dammed lake fringed with aspen, willows, pines, cottonwoods, open grassland.

Seen flying from willows to aspen trees, singing in flight; "roller coaster" style.

Description: small flycatcher with unmistakable plumage, bright to light crimson from chin to undertail coverts, slight buff tinge to sides of breast; short-tailed, dark brown/black; nervous upward flick when perched. Under remiges (primaries, secondaries) white contrasting with dark wing linings, legs black.

head: small, pointed, black bill; crimson crest and face, very dark brown colored mask from lores through dark eye, extending to hind crown and nape, connecting to dark brown mantle. Wings same dark brown; secondaries and greater, median s. coverts and tertials narrowly lined with buff edges. Lower tips of scapulars had pink/buff "tuft". Primaries black.

Vocal: singing "da deet da dee " in flight.

Similar species: none. Have seen VEFL many times.

Report written from notes made during observation.

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Karleen Schofield

DATE: 4/5/2001

### Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

***Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!***

CFO-RC FILE X:

**2001-148**

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name): **VERMILION FLYCATCHER**(Scientific Name) **Pyrocephalus rubinus**Date(s) of occurrence: **April 5, 2001**Number of birds seen: **One**Sex: **Male**Plumage: **Adult**Exact Location: **Belmar City Park**County: **Jefferson**Nearest town: **Lakewood**Elevation: **5550 feet msl**Length of observation: **Approximately 15 minutes**Time(s) of observation: **Roughly 4:00 PM**Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **Rich Stevens**Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): **Many I believe, but don't know whom offhand.**Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): **Good. Sky was mostly overcast.**Optical equipment used: **7x42 Zeiss Bins**Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): **Varied. Initially the bird was distant at roughly 75 yards. I was able to approach the bird later to within approximately 50 yards.**Was bird(s) photographed? **Yes (video)**If so, have you submitted photos? **Yes (video stills)**Who took the photographs? **Myself**Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: **Riparian-lined pond in urban setting. Bird was generally associated with treed island in center of pond.**Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **Bird was mostly foraging by making occasional sallay's out over water and returning to various perches.**

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

**I had heard of the presence of a male Vermilion Flycatcher at Belmar City Park via Cobirds and opted to chase it. I arrived at the park in late afternoon and spent at least an hour searching for the bird to no avail. While birding the north shore of the pond in the center of the park, I saw another birder waiving that he probably had the bird on the island in the center of the pond. As I approached neared the island, I quickly saw the bird. The following were traits of the bird. The bird was small, being roughly 6 inches in size, with a large head with pointed crown, short wings, and relatively short, square-tipped tail. The breast was deep and the bird was generally perched in an upright fashion. The bill was somewhat short and black. The head was mainly a bright red except for a blackish face mask that extended across the lores, widened slightly through the eye and auricular region and broadened greatly toward the hindneck. The lower head, throat, breast, flanks, vent, and undertail coverts were the same bright red as the majority of the head. The nape, back, wings, and rectrices were generally a blackish-brown, except for a very thin whitish tip to the distal end of the rectrices and very faint, whitish wingbars along the tips of the median and greater coverts. The subject bird would occasionally sally over the water, returning generally to the same perch following its foraging.**



Describe bird's call or song: **None heard**

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **No other small bird in North America has the same color pattern as that of an adult male Vermilion Flycatcher. Scarlet tanager has a combination of red and black, but is larger with a thicker bill, with red upperparts and lack of black in the face. Red Warbler, a Central American species, would be highly improbably of occurring in Colorado and lacks the blackish face mask and upperparts of the subject bird. Northern Cardinal is a larger species with much thicker bill and also lacks the black upperparts displayed by Vermilion Flycatcher.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **Have observed many others in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Mexico. Have also observed a few other birds in Colorado.**

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **None**

This report is from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ or after observation or later **XX** from memory

Date of written report: **11/6/01**

Reporting observer: **Larry Semo**

Signature:

Reporting Observer's Address: **9054 Dover Street**

City: **Westminster**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80021**