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A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Record

By W. H. Turcotte

On May 27, 1972 I observed a scissor-tailed flycatcher (Muscivora forficata) in a newly planted field beside Highway 49 opposite the Piney Woods School pasture fence, Rankin County. This bird was first seen perched on a wire about 1:30 P.M. by John W. Turcotte who made the sighting and reported it to me by telephone when he arrived home in Jackson. I drove to the site about 5:30 P.M. with my wife and observed the bird closely with binoculars for at least thirty minutes. It was first noticed when it flew from a small tree and alighted on a clod in the field where it remained, perching on clods as it moved about catching insects on the ground. The bird was in beautiful plumage with a full tail and bright salmon-orange markings.

Previously reported sight records for this species in literature are by M. G. Vaiden, Bolivar County, May 11, 1952; May 9, 1962 by Mrs. Amy Tolman, Clermont Harbor, Hancock County, and October 7, 1962 by Sammie Danna, Jr., Bolivar County. Mrs. Ethel Floyd photographed a scissor-tailed flycatcher on May 10, 1960 at Clermont Harbor, Hancock County.
