



*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Whitemouth, 18 August 79*

*Peter Taylor*

## SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER NEAR WHITEMOUTH, MANITOBA

PETER TAYLOR, Box 597, Pinawa,  
Manitoba, R0E 1L0

About 11 a.m. on 18 August 1979 I observed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher approximately 13 km northwest of Whitemouth, Manitoba. It was perching on a telephone wire alongside a gravel road through farmland, 0.8 km south of the junction of Provincial Highways 11 and 44. It remained in the vicinity for much of the day, and was subsequently seen by N.J. Cleveland, H.W.R. Copland, J. Loch and W. Neily. It could not be located on 19 or 20 August.

The pink colouration on the bird's flanks was very pale, and the tail was relatively short (see photograph), indicating that the bird was immature.<sup>4</sup> The extent of pink in the wing linings was not ascertained, but it was not prominent. The bird was active and hawked several large insects, probably bees, which it battered on the wire in kingbird fashion before

swallowing them.

There are 10 other Manitoba records of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, involving 13 individuals of which five were collected.<sup>1</sup> Curiously, the bird described here appears to be the first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher recorded in Manitoba since 1952—a gap of twenty-seven years—whereas 10 of the 13 birds previously recorded were seen during the 28 year period from 1924 to 1952. However, there are recent records for both Saskatchewan and northwestern Ontario.<sup>3 2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>BRADLEY, J.E. 1971. A sight record of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for southern Saskatchewan. *Blue Jay* 29:34.

<sup>2</sup>GOODWIN, C.E. 1979. The Autumn Migration, 1978: Ontario Region. *American Birds* 33:173.

<sup>3</sup>HEDGER, H. 1979. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Tugaske, Saskatchewan. *Blue Jay* 37:128.

<sup>4</sup>ROBBINS, C.S., B. BRUUN, H.S. ZIM and A. SINGER, 1966. *Birds of North America: A field guide to identification*, Golden Press, New York, p. 191.