



*Fork-tailed Flycatcher, first state record. 16 May 2005. Paul Douglas Forest Preserve, Cook County. Photo by Eric Secker.*

same or a nearby perch. However, it moved extensively around the large prairie, rarely flying over 100 meters in a single flight. It usually perched on grass stems that could support its weight or on small shrubs, rarely flying into the tops of taller trees surrounding the prairie. It often associated with Eastern Kingbirds, another recent arrival from its non-breeding grounds in South America. These two species sometimes flock together at fruiting trees in Amazonia (P. O'Donnell, pers. comm.) and it is conceivable that the Fork-tail could have arrived with a group of Eastern Kingbirds.

Thanks to the ease of communications in the technology age, over one hundred birders saw the bird despite the fact that it goes down as a "one day wonder." The bird was initially discovered at 9:30 AM; at 9:34 a message about it appeared on Illinois' birding listserv, IBET. The first twitchers arrived forty-five minutes later and the bird was watched nearly constantly the rest of the day. Despite many people searching the following day, it was not seen again.

**Figure 1.**

**All spring (April-June) records of Fork-tailed Flycatcher in North America.**

Date	Location	Source
1 June 1832	NJ	McCaskie and Patten (1994)
29 May 1967	West Orange, NJ	MP
4-9 May 1968	Plum Island, NJ	MP
5 May 1981	Big Cypress N.P., FL	MP
16 May 1981†	Austin, TX	AB 35:841
30 June 1982	Bonaventure I., PQ	AB 36:958
18-20 May 1984	Cape May, NJ	AB 38:892
25 June 1984	Cape Breton I., NS	MP
1-7 June 1986	Cape Carteret, NC	MP
13 June 1987	Falmouth, MA	MP
20-21 June 1987	Marshfield, MA	MP
24 April 1988	Ft. Morgan, AL	AB 42:448
1 June 1988†	Drumheller, AB	AB 42:1305
3 June-1 August 1988	Rustic, VA	AB 43:79
24 June 1988†	Douglas Co., WI	AB 42:1292
7 May 1989	Oak Beach, NY	AB 43:457
2-3 May 1990	Concord, MA	AB 44:398
17-19 May 1990	Chincoteague, VA	AB 44:409
16-25 June 1990	Shark Valley, FL	AB 45:93
23-25 April 1991	Gilchrist, TX	AB 45:471
11-14 June 1991	Bon Portage I., NS	AB 45:1089
14-20 June 1991	Kent I., NB	AB 45:1089
14 June 1991	Castellow Hammock, FL	McCaskie and Patten (1994)
20 April 1992	Dauphin I., AL	AB 46:436
3-14 May 1992†	Grand Marais, MN	AB 46:427
25 April 1993	Sabine, TX	FN 47:432
29 June 1993	Ram I., Mattapoisett, MA	FN 47:1091
18-19 May 1994	Kittery, ME	FN 48:277
24 April 1995	Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, FL	FN: 49:242
15 April 1996	Upper Matecombe Key, FL	FN 50:272
6-7 May 1997†2	Hornby Bend, TX	FN 51:895
17 May 1997	Near Anahuac NWR, Cambers Co., TX	<a href="http://texasbirds.org/tbrc/ar1998.html">http://texasbirds.org/tbrc/ar1998.html</a>
18 May 1998	Cape May, NJ	FN 52:309
27 May 1999†	Cedoux, SK	NAB 53:293
29 May 1999	Brigantine, NJ	NAB 53:263
29 May 1999†	Bic, PQ	NAB 53:256
3 May 2000	Boot Key, FL	NAB 54:256
4 May 2000	Dry Tortugas N.P., FL	NAB 54:256
9 May 2000	Block I., RI	NAB 54:262, R. Farrell pers. comm.
Note the date in NAB is incorrect.		
1 June 2000	Neck Bay, Douglaston, Queens, NY	NAB 54:365
10 June-25 July 2000†	Ferrisburg, VT	NAB 54: 361
5-6 May 2001	Cape Sable I., NS	NAB 55:270
24 May 2002	Nantucket, MA	NAB 56:286
16 May 2005†	Hoffman Estates, IL	

† Inland record

1 AB=American Birds; FN=Field Notes; NAB=North American Birds

2 Two birds, one stayed until 9 June.