







Empidonax Flycatchers of Southern California *

There is much species overlap and variation due to age, molt, wear, larger male, etc. All juves have vests. Molt is after migration in late fall when possibly very dull. All Empids have pale lores, light outer retrices and yellowish bodies if seen well—all with little field ID value.

For identification, use a combination of characteristics. Beware of situation: lighting, cold, wet, etc. All excited Empids may do wing/tail flicking. Some feel that only song is 100% reliable. Always consider Empid sp. as ID.

	Main Areas, Periods ***	Size inch	Key Marks	Eyering	Lower** Mandible	Wings	Tail	Flicking	Call
Pacific Slope Most common	CM 2½-9½ D 3¼-4½	5 ½	yellow throat	teardrop		short	long	wing/tail same time	upslurred su-wheet; sharp seet
Hammond's 2 nd most common	CDM 3½-4½ 9-9 ½	5 ½	large grayish head, throat	almost teardrop		long	short	wing/tail same time	sharp peek
Dusky	M 4 ½-7 ¼	5 ¾	pale lore, gray throat	round		short	long	wing/tail @ landing; just tail	soft wit
Gray	M 4 ¼-7 ½	6"	grayest overall	faint		short	longest	drops tail	loud wit
Willow	D 4 ½-5 ½; 8-8 ½	5 ¾	drab wingbars	faint to none		short	long, wide	lots tail flick	loud wit; Fitz-bew
Least Vagrant	CD 5/31 *; 9-2 ¼	5 ¼	large head	bold		short	short	lots tail; some wing	sharp whit; dry Chebek
W. Wood-Pewee for comparison	CM 3 ¼-8½ D 5.7½ -8½	6 ¼	Darkest: vested; no yellow	none		longest	short	none	descending peeer

* J. Dunn's Field Notes, W. TANAGER '77; Whitney & Kaufman ID Series, BTRDING '85-'86; R. Stallcup's "Flitty Little Flycatchers," PRBO Sp 89; Garrett & Dunn, BIRDS OF SO. CALIF. '81; SIBLEY; 6th Ed. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

** Tracings from Keith Hanson's Flycatcher drawings, PT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY, Sp. 89

*** CDM = Coast, Desert, Mountains; 4 ¼ - 5 ½ = second week of May to mid June

- Wanda Dameron Rev. 8/13