

Gray Flycatcher

Empidonax wrightii

A typical species of the Great Basin sagebrush, the Gray Flycatcher can be quickly recognized not by its drab plumage, but by its habit of slowly wagging its tail downwards.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Small flycatcher.
- Prominent eyering and wingbars.
- Back gray, belly white.
- Constantly wags tail slowly downward.

Immature Description

Similar to adult, but upperparts tinged brownish, underparts with buff wash, and wingbars buff.



Cool Facts

- The Gray Flycatcher was not recognized as breeding in the United States until the early 20th century. Before that time it was thought to breed in northern Mexico and to wander northward in the fall.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 5.5 - 5.9 inches
- Wingspan - 8.7 inches
- Weight - 0.4 - 0.5 ounces