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TRAVIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

B3 CLASS 2025

SAYORNIS
FLYCATCHERS
(PHOEBES)

Seven Habits of Highly Effective Birders

- 1) Where are we? – County, sub-county...
- 2) When are we? – Season, month, 1/2 month...
- 3) Where is he? – Habitat, micro-habitat...

Distribution !!

- 4) GISS & Structure – posture, behavior, primary extension ...
- 5) Bill & Head – length, shape, thickness, use...
- 6) Field Marks – plumage, pattern, behavior..
- 7) Diagnostic Field Marks –

Identity !!

RESULTS IN A DIAGNOSIS !!!

Do Kings Play Chess
On Fine Green Silk

Order, Family, Genus, Species

Domain: **Eukarya**

Kingdom: **Anamalia**

Phylum: **Chordata**

Class: **Aves**

Order: **Passeriformes**

Family: **Tyrannidae**

Contopus
(4)

Myiarchus
(6)

Tyrannus
(9)

Sayornis
(3)

Empidonax
(10)

Other genera

“Flycatchers”

Genus

TAXONOMY
(THE TREE OF LIFE)

BINOMIAL NOMENCLATURE (GENUS, SPECIES)

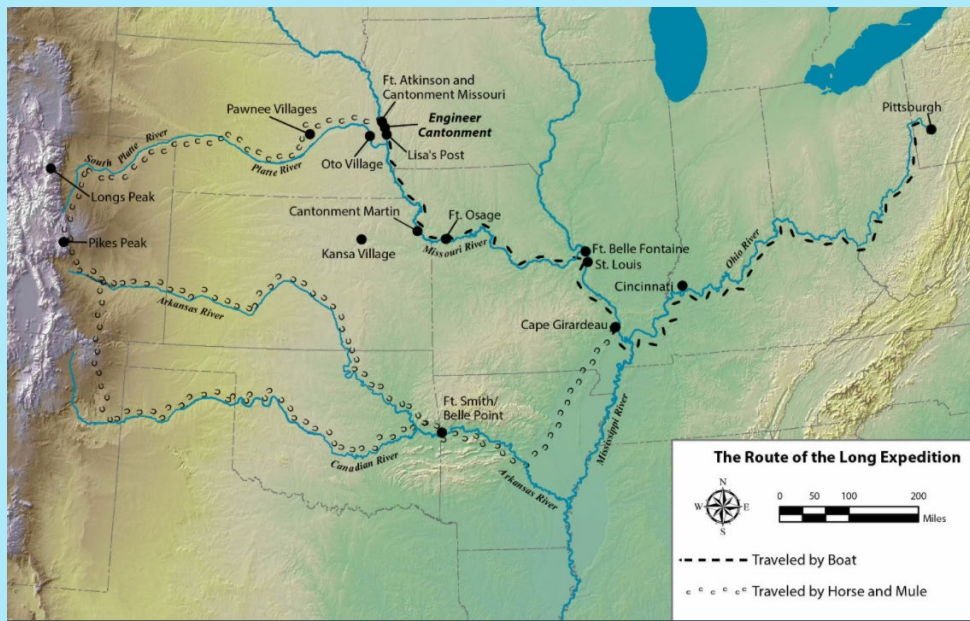
Eastern Phoebe
(*Sayornis phoebe*)

(originally a name of Artemis as the goddess of the moon)

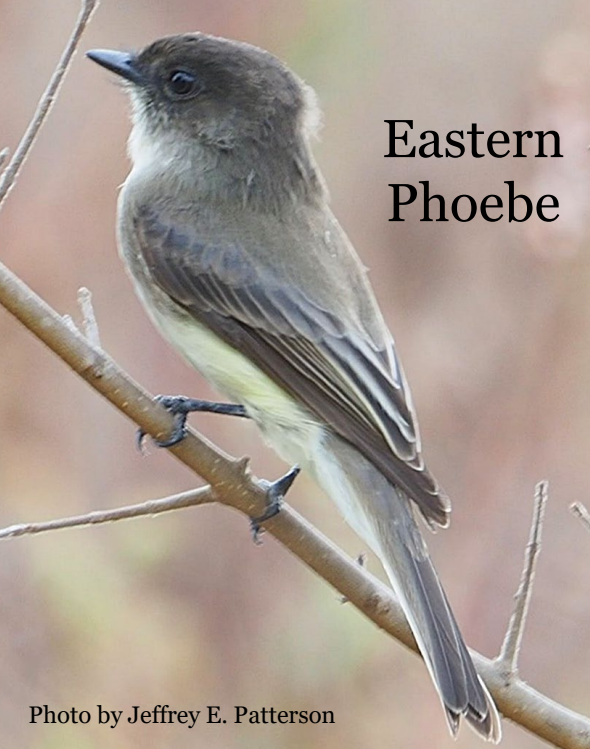
Black Phoebe
(*Sayornis nigricans*)
(black)

Say's Phoebe
(*Sayornis saya*)
(Say's
Thomas Say)

Sayornis
(latinized form of “Say’s”)



Stephen Long Expedition
(1819-1820)
Thomas Say (1787 – 1834)
– naturalist



Eastern
Phoebe

Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson



Say's
Phoebe

Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

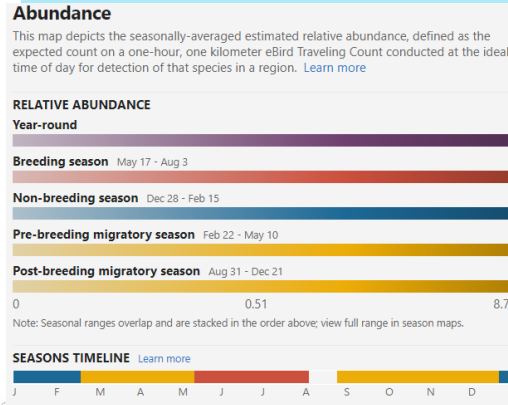
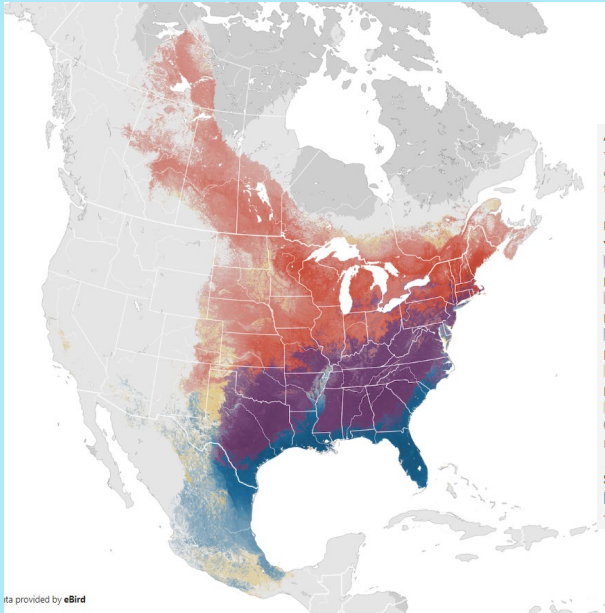


Black Phoebe

Photo by Ed Harper

THE PHOEBES

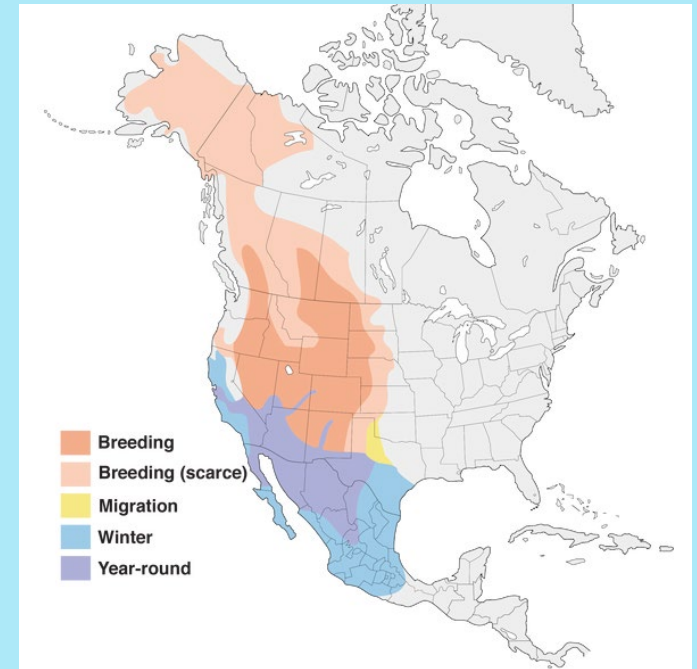
WHERE/WHEN? RANGE



Eastern Phoebe

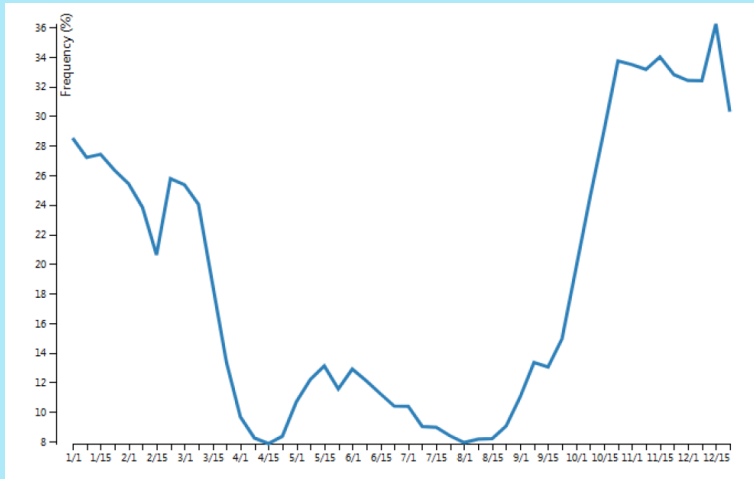


Black Phoebe

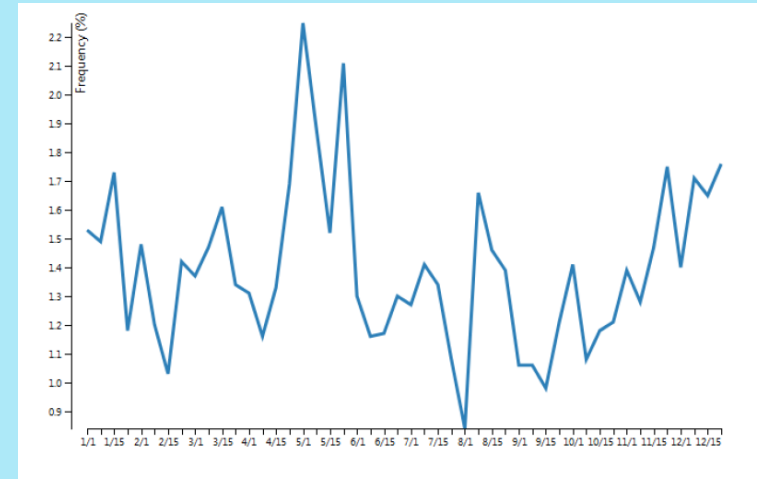


Say's Phoebe

WHEN? FREQUENCY IN TEXAS



Eastern Phoebe



Say's Phoebe

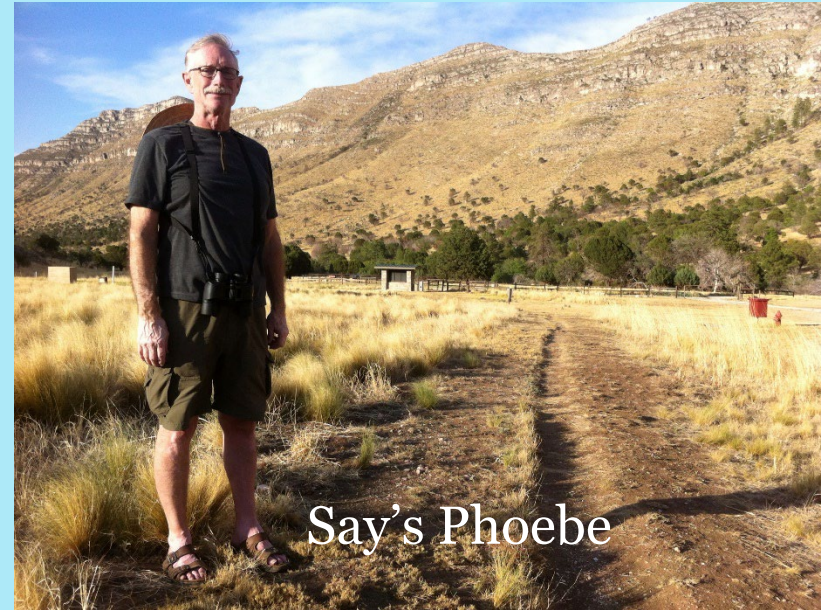
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Woodlands, farms, suburbs.

WHERE? HABITAT & MICRO-HABITAT

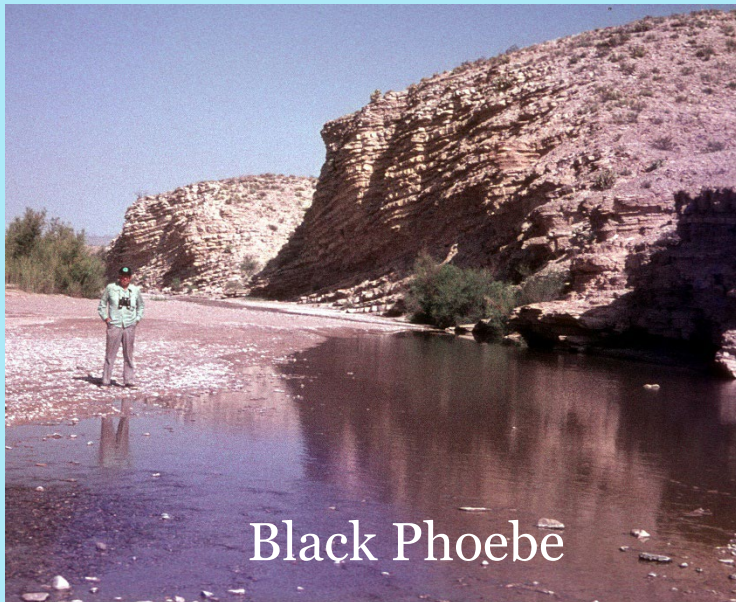


Eastern Phoebe



Say's Phoebe

Dry open areas, prairie,
desert, fields in the west.



Black Phoebe

Near water in dry areas of
trans Pecos and Rio Grande.

Eastern Phoebe

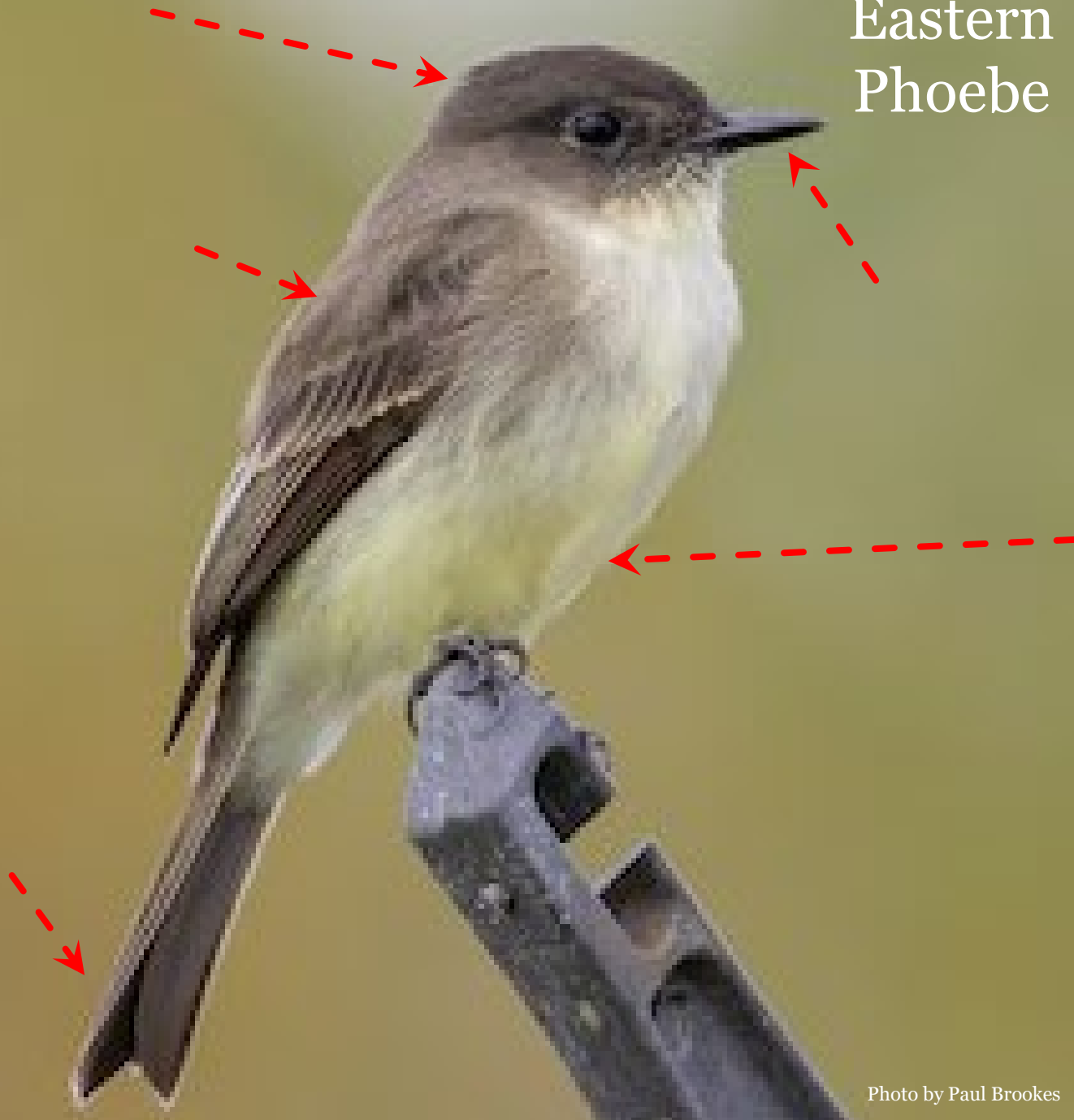


Photo by Paul Brookes

EASTERN PHOEBE



EASTERN PHOEBE



CONFUSERS



SAY'S PHOEBE

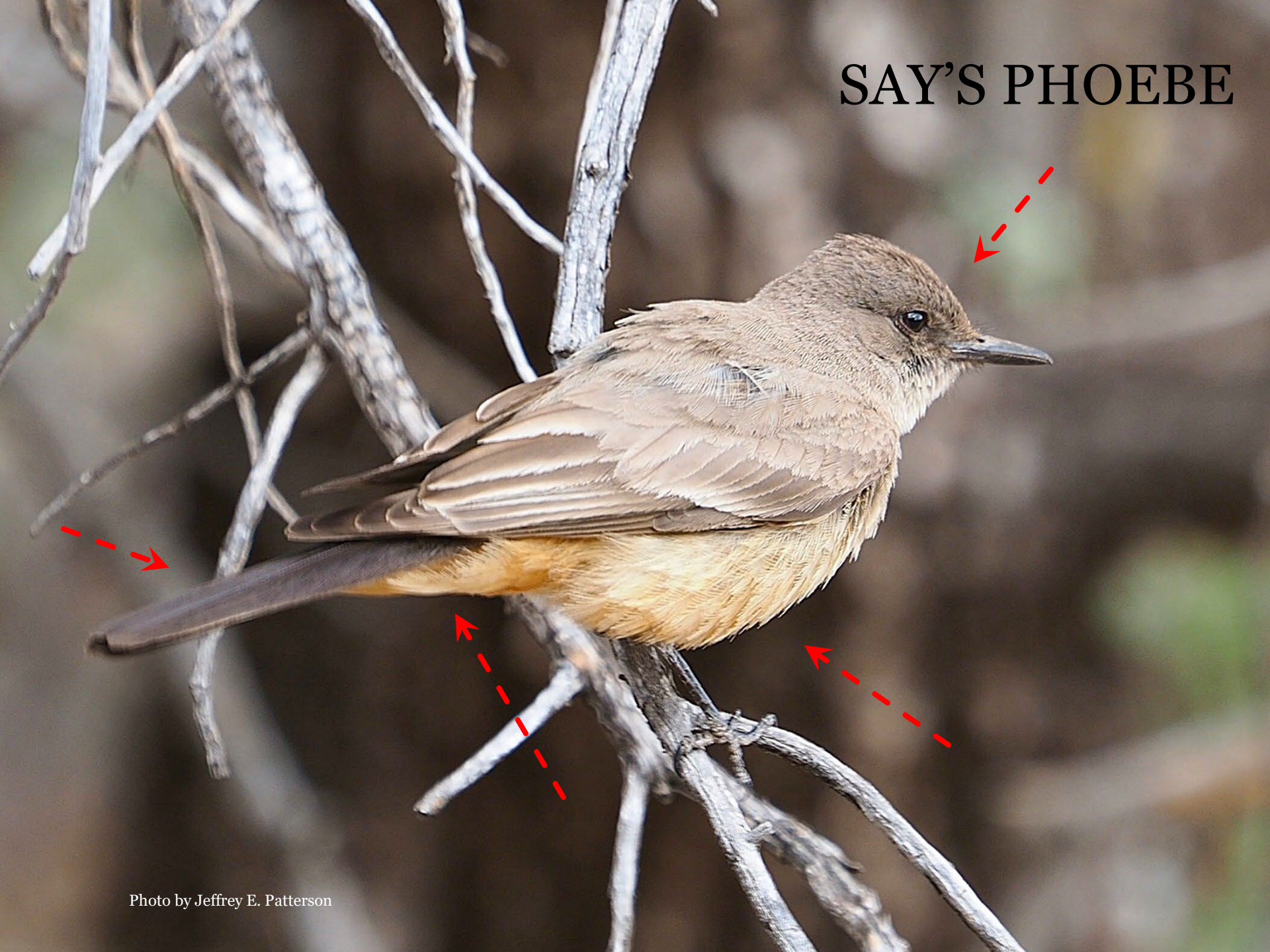


Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

SAY'S PHOEBE



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

BLACK PHOEBE

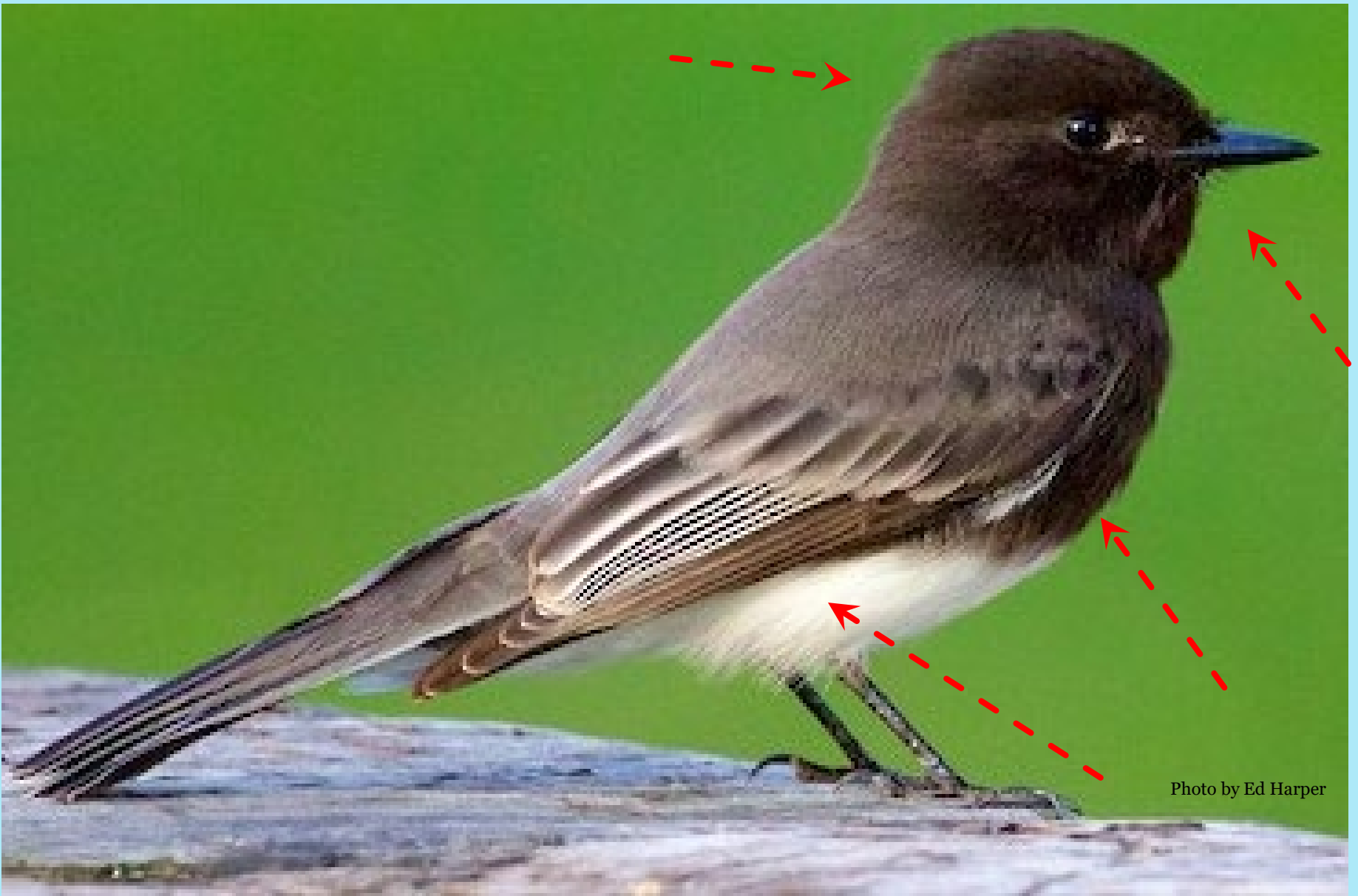


Photo by Ed Harper

BLACK PHOEBE



Photo by Alex Catelein

BLACK PHOEBE



Photo by Andrew Simon

SAYORNIS FLYCATCHERS (PHOEBES)

SUMMARY

► **Eastern Phoebe**

- Very common in woodlands
- Almost constantly wagging tail downward
- Yellow wash on belly
- Darkest on head and face
- Gray smudge on sides of breast
- Diffuse demarcation on underside

► **Say's Phoebe**

- Peach undertail coverts, sometimes a wash on belly
- Pale gray back & head
- Black tail

► **Black Phoebe**

- Black head & chest
- White belly
- Sharp demarcation between white belly & black chest

EXERCISE:
CALIBRATE THE EYE
“NAIL THE EAPH”
(EASTERN PHOEBE)



“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



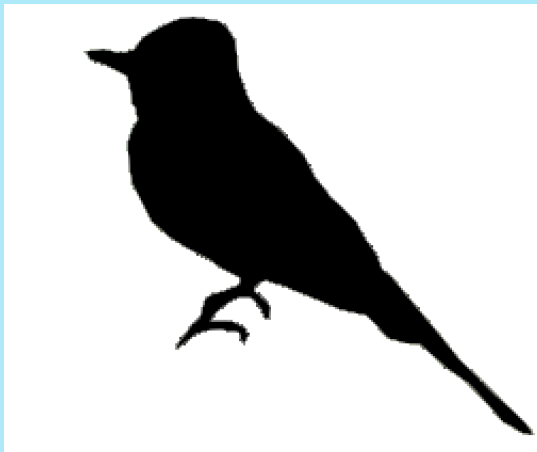
A



“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



A



“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



B



“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



B



“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



C

“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



C

“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



D



“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



D



“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



E



3



“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



E



“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



F



“NAIL THE EAPH” (EASTERN PHOEBE)



F



QUIZ ANSWERS

A. 1 = EAPH

B. 2 = EAPH

C. 1 = EAPH

D. 2 = EAPH

E. 3 = EAPH

F. 3 = EAPH