

EMPIDONAX CHECKLIST: EASTERN EMPIDS (10/1/20)				
#	ATTRIBUTE		LEAST FLYCATCHER	
Overview			Most numerous migrant in most of eastern North America. Also occurs as a regular vagrant in the west. Short primary projection, compact build and eye-ring are the first things to observe.	
1 (A)	Structure	Wings	Wing proportions (wing length & primary projection)	Rather short primary projection. Short wings that barely project to base of tail.
2		Wings	Shape of primary tips	Distinctly rounded tips and less pointed than <b>Hammond's</b> and some other <b>Empids</b> .
3 (B)		Tail	Tail proportions & shape	Short, narrow tail, reminiscent of a popsicle stick.
4 (A)		Bill	Bill size, shape & color(s)	Intermediate in width. Short-billed. Lower mandible is mostly or entirely orange-yellow, sometimes with an ill-defined dusky tip. Triangular lower mandible.
5 (A)		Head	Head shape & proportion to body	Head often looks proportionately large.
6			Crown of head (peak, crest)	Roundish head.
7			Forehead slope	Steep forehead.
8 (A)		Body	Body shape	Small and compact with short wings. Round body with thin tail. Looks small even for an <b>Empid</b> .
9 (A)	Plumage	Eye-ring	Bold, complete, but messy eye-ring. Of uniform width. Often shows a white "kick" or "teardrop" in rear.	
10		Wing-bars	Bold and whitish on fresh adults. Dingy white on worn birds and buffy on juveniles.	
11 (B)		Throat color & contrast	Throat is whitish or off-white (not bright white), contrasting with the darker face and gray-brown wash across breast.	
12 (B)		Upper parts	Fairly uniform brownish gray, usually somewhat darker brown on the forehead and washed with olive on the back. Contrast on wing is usually obvious, with blackish ground color setting off white wing-bars and tertial edges.	
13 (B)		Lower parts	Gray-brown wash across breast. Flanks, belly and undertail coverts pale yellow to white-ish.	
14		Molt	Complete prebasic molt on the wintering grounds and thus will appear worn and faded by late summer and fall. Drab and very pale below with narrow wing-bars. Spring pre-alternate molt that involves body plumage and variable numbers of coverts, so wing-bars often broad and fresh in spring. Molt mostly completed before northward migration, but some young birds may have a disheveled appearance. Juveniles undergo a partial prebasic molt before leaving the breeding grounds -- thus fresh and brighter in the fall.	
15	Other	Habitat/Micro-habitat	Forest edges and clearing. Nesting in mature hardwood trees. Generally avoids being in the open.	
16		Behavior	Active, often changing perches. Lots of flicking of the tail and wings. Often jerking the tail upward and flicking the wings at the same time. Flicks tail at times in a quick down-up motion (faster than <b>Gray</b> ). Penchant for hanging out just below the canopy.	
17 (A')		Song	Emphatic <b>CHEbek</b> or <b>cheBIK</b> repeated rapidly.	
18 (B)		Call	Sharp <b>whit</b> also sometimes in series. Somewhat harder than the similar calls of <b>Willow</b> , <b>Gray</b> and <b>Dusky</b> . Has been compared to a distant <b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> . Most vocal <b>Empid</b> in migration.	
19		Migration	Circum-gulf migrant. Most adults are gone from North America before September.	
20		Similar species	Most common Empid in the East. Only <b>Willow</b> has a similar <b>whit</b> call. Smaller than <b>Willow</b> , <b>Alder</b> , <b>Acadian</b> . Smaller size, smaller bill, shorter primary extension and more prominent eye-ring. <b>Yellow-bellied</b> is similar in size and shape but usually much stronger green and yellow tones. Some fall <b>Yellow-bellied</b> may have worn to grayish -- still have larger bills and different calls. Also less contrast between face and grayish white throat. In the west, closest in appearance with <b>Dusky</b> and <b>Hammond's</b> . <b>Hammond's</b> has a shorter & thinner bill which is typically mostly or entirely dusky. <b>Hammond's</b> has longer primary projection and primaries more pointed at the tip. <b>Hammond's</b> shows more head-back contrast, a stronger "vested" appearance and a grayer throat. <b>Peek</b> call is different. <b>Dusky</b> has longer and thinner bill usually with more extensive dark lower mandible. Also has a short primary extension. <b>Dusky's</b> tail is a bit longer and possibly narrower at the base. <b>Dusky</b> has a longer less compact shape. <b>Least</b> will have a whiter throat and blacker wings that contrast more with the whitish-edged tertials and secondaries. In the east the <b>Least</b> is structurally only similar to the <b>Yellow-bellied</b> , but can be separated by plumage colors. Only <b>Least</b> , <b>Acadian</b> , <b>Yellow-bellied</b> , <b>Cordilleran</b> and <b>Pacific Slope</b> have the tear-drop shaped eye-ring. 1/2 inch smaller than <b>Acadian</b> , <b>Willow</b> , <b>Alder</b> ; 1/4 inch smaller than <b>Hammond's</b> . <b>Yellow-bellied</b> is larger headed and more portly; <b>Acadian</b> is larger, bigger-billed and more robust; <b>Alder/Willow</b> are lankier and bigger-billed; <b>Hammond's</b> is longer winged and narrower billed.	

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#	ATTRIBUTE		YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	
Overview			An early fall migrant. Separated from <b>Acadian</b> by yellow chin & throat, as well as more compact structure. Regarded as “the cute one” by banders. The yellow throat is the most distinctive character among eastern Empids.	
1 (A)	Structure	Wings	Wing proportions (wing length & primary projection)	Relatively long wings. Short to moderate primary projection.
2			Shape of primary tips	
3 (B)		Tail	Tail proportions & shape	Short narrow tail is constricted at the base rather than parallel sided.
4 (A)		Bill	Bill size, shape & color(s)	Rather large for the size of the bird, looking broad at the base and with slightly convex outer edges. Lower mandible entirely orange-yellow.
5 (A)		Head	Head shape & proportion to body	Large, round head. Shorter tail accentuates the front-heavy, big-headed look.
6			Crown of head (peak, crest)	Crown usually smoothly rounded, only occasionally with slight crested effect.
7			Forehead slope	Steep forehead.
8 (A)		Body	Body shape	Small and compact <b>Empid</b> appears large headed and short-tailed. Portly body with a short tail. Somewhat pudgy.
9 (A)	Plumage	Eye-ring		Complete, conspicuous and somewhat yellow-ish, but normally not as crisply defined as <b>Least</b> . Usually of nearly uniform width (slightly thicker posteriorally). Occasional individuals may hint at teardrop shaped eye-ring.
10		Wing-bars		Yellowish white wing-bars are very conspicuous. Wings are quite black, contrasting with the green back and setting off the wing-bars and tertial edges in strong contrast. Juveniles often have buffy wing-bars.
11 (B)		Throat color & contrast		Low contrast yellow throat. Olive malar blends to yellow-olive throat.
12 (B)		Upper parts		Distinctly greenish and brighter than most other <b>Empids</b> (except some " <b>Westerns</b> " in spring or freshly molted <b>Acadians</b> in fall). Wings are strongly blackish showing high-contrast with the whitish edged tertials and secondaries and the yellowish-white wing bars. Faded fall adults appear browner-winged or dusky-winged, with less contrast.
13 (B)		Lower parts		Tends to look fairly uniform in body plumage, not much paler below than above, although wings show strong contrast. The yellow throat is the most distinctive character among eastern <b>Empids</b> . This color is really grayish yellow or yellow washed over a pale gray background, and it does not contrast sharply with the sides of the head. Sides of breast usually have a strong greenish olive wash. Most consistently yellow on underparts of any <b>Empid</b> . If worn, can be quite pale on the belly. Most birds show a distinct olive wash on breast which continues down the sides.
14		Molt		Complete or incomplete prebasic molt in fall after arriving on winter grounds. Partial prealternate molt in early spring before starting north. In spring they are in fresh plumage with strongly contrasting wing-bars and tertial edges before arriving in North America. By late summer (before migrating south) adults can be so worn and faded that they look mostly gray and white, with narrow wing bars. Juveniles go through an incomplete preformative molt before leaving the nesting grounds, replacing the body plumage and some coverts; they look fresh in fall migration, with the wing-bars appearing rich buff or a mix of yellowish white and buff. Juveniles undergo partial prebasic molt on the natal territory and are thus fresh in late summer and fall. Unlike most Empids adults undergo only a partial prebasic molt, and it takes place on the wintering grounds. So adults in late summer and fall will be faded and worn. Another unusual feature is that adults prebasic molt is followed closely by a complete prealternate molt in late winter, so adults in spring are in fresh plumage.
15	Other	Habitat/Micro-habitat		Nests in bogs, swamps and damp coniferous woods. Usually found in the interior of dense woods, even in migration, so often difficult to observe.
16		Behavior		Active and given to much simultaneous wing and tail flicking. Generally perches fairly low. Likes to forage where it is thick -- in the lower portions of conifers and shrubs; in thickets; and in lush edges and openings in dense forests during migration. Favors wetter areas and woodlands of thickets adjacent to water. Hovers frequently to pluck insects and commonly captures prey on the ground. Wing flicks and tail flicks with an abrupt upward jerk. Usually solitary, but in migration may be in mixed flocks.
17 (A')		Song		Hoarse <b>chebunk</b> or <b>cheberk</b> , very similar to least, but lower, buzzier, softer without strong emphasis. Softer, less emphatic than <b>Least</b> and more casually paced.
18 (B)		Call		Short, clear rising whistle <b>tuwee</b> reminiscent of <b>wood-pewees</b> . Also shorter versions of <b>pwee</b> or <b>peee</b> , a sharp, descending <b>pyew</b> (migrants); somewhat plaintive, long <b>peehk</b> ; a sharp monotone <b>wsee</b> .
19		Migration		Tends to be a late migrant moving through Texas in mid-May. In fall it is an early migrant with many south of the breeding grounds in later August. Circum-gulf migrant.
20		Similar species		Many artistic renderings of this species make it appear more similar to others of the genus than it really is, especially <b>Acadian</b> , which is much larger billed (especially longer) with relatively long wings. Slightly larger than <b>Least</b> , smaller than <b>Acadian</b> . Separated from <b>Acadian</b> by yellow rather than whitish throat and smaller bill. Distinguished from <b>Least</b> by voice, structure, low-contrast throat. <b>Least</b> is more elfin-featured; <b>Acadian</b> more robust, with a longer heavier bill, a more peaked head and a longer tail; <b>Alder/Willow</b> have a more peaked head and are overall gaunt. Extremely similar to " <b>Western</b> ", but on average is more strongly yellow below and green above. Usually separated by range. The eye-ring is more usually circular (rather than teardrop) and the more blackish wings contrast with the whitish tertials and secondary edges. The tail is slightly shorter than " <b>Westerns</b> ", which accentuates the stubby appearance; the head appears more rounded (not peaked). Approached in general plumage by <b>Acadian</b> , but even bright <b>Acadians</b> should not be as strongly yellowish in the throat. The <b>Acadian</b> is structurally different in overall size, bill size and structure, primary projection and tail structure. When the <b>Acadian</b> does have yellow on the throat, it is usually clear pale yellow, subtly different than the grayish yellow of the <b>Yellow-bellied</b> . Because all <b>Acadians</b> undergo their prebasic molt on the breeding grounds (before migrating south), they will be in fresh plumage with buffy wing-bars when most <b>Yellow-bellied</b> are faded and worn.

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#	ATTRIBUTE		ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	
Overview			A relatively large, long-winged <b>Empid</b> with long primary projection & heavy bill (long, deep, & broad) with mostly pale yellowish) lower mandible. The bill is the longest & broadest of any <b>Empid</b> . Pale green malar.	
1 (A)	Structure	Wings	Wing proportions (wing length & primary projection)	Long primary projection. Long-winged.
2		Wings	Shape of primary tips	Sword-like tips.
3 (B)		Tail	Tail proportions & shape	Medium length tail that is broad at the base and nearly parallel sided. Tail may appear relatively short due to long primary projection.
4 (A)		Bill	Bill size, shape & color(s)	Largest bill on average of any <b>Empid</b> . Long, deep, and broad (especially at the base) with slightly convex outer edges. Lower mandible almost always entirely pinkish yellow.
5 (A)		Head	Head shape & proportion to body	Large head, often with a somewhat pushed-out face.
6			Crown of head (peak, crest)	Forehead and fore part of the crown look flat, often sloping up gradually to a point or corner at the rear edge of crown, but the crown also can look low and smoothly rounded in the rear.
7			Forehead slope	Flat forehead.
8 (A)		Body	Body shape	A big sturdy <b>Empid</b> (built like a light heavy weight). Solid but well-trimmed body.
9 (A)	Plumage	Eye-ring		Narrow, pale yellow eye-ring. The eye is distinctly large and prominent. Eye-ring can be faint on some individuals.
10		Wing-bars		The wings show strong contrast, with very blackish ground color setting off the buffy wing-bars and tertial edges.
11 (B)		Throat color & contrast		Even though the <u>throat is white or grayish</u> it does not contrast sharply with the face because of the <u>pale green malar area</u> , which is one of the most obvious visual marks of the species.
12 (B)		Upper parts		Very green above. Uniformly greenish olive from crown to rump, fades into a slightly paler and brighter green in the malar area of the face. Wings are fairly blackish and show high contrast with the 2 whitish or yellowish-white wing-bars and the whitish edged tertials and secondaries.
13 (B)		Lower parts		Underparts show a faint olive wash across upper breast and a faint yellowish wash on the belly and undertail coverts. Pale white lower breast.
14		Molt		<b>Molts on breeding ground and migrates south in fresh plumage.</b> By mid-summer adults usually look very whitish below and wing-bars usually have become whitish and very narrow. Unlike other eastern <b>Empids</b> , adults undergo a complete molt before leaving the breeding grounds; thus they will be in fresh plumage in fall migration (with yellow wing-bars and yellow wash on the underparts). But they rapidly depart from North America as soon as their molt is completed. Juveniles are very distinctive when they first fledge, rich greenish olive above with conspicuous buff tips to many feathers on the crowns, nape, back and wing coverts, forming a scaled effect. Their underparts may be lightly washed yellow, and they have rich buff wing-bars. They lose the scaly look in a partial molt before they migrate, but don't replace the wing feathers, so retain buff wing bars and underparts may be strongly yellow washed, often including the throat.
15	Other	Habitat/Micro-habitat		Broadleaf trees usually near water or high trees within forests. Generally stays inside forested areas, where it may perch low at times but often perches quite high, near the canopy.
16		Behavior		A bird of the forest interior -- unlike most other <b>Empids</b> . Generally forages amid the leaves of the lower canopy and understory. Also darts out and hovers to pluck prey. Usually does not return to the same perch and changes perches frequently. Not as active as some of the other <b>Empids</b> . Tends to flick tail and wing less and mostly right after changing perches.
17 (A')		Song		Explosive <b><i>peet-sah!</i></b> Or <b><i>peet-sup!</i></b>
18 (B)		Call		<b><i>Peet</i></b> is noticeably different than the <b><i>whit</i></b> of the <b>Willow</b> or the <b><i>kep</i></b> of the <b>Alder</b> .
19		Migration		
20	Similar species		In fresh plumage average greener than any other save <b>Yellow-bellied</b> and " <b>Westerns</b> ". ( <b>Acadian</b> , <b>Hammond's</b> , <b>Buff-breasted</b> and occasionally <b>Least</b> molt on breeding grounds before migrating south. Thus any Empid seen molting in North America is probably one of these 3 more widespread species; any worn adult seen in fall is likely one of the other species (which molt on the wintering grounds)). Length of bill may be matched or even exceeded by long-billed examples of <b>Gray</b> and " <b>Trail's</b> " in general the <b>Acadian</b> is longer billed than any other <b>Empid</b> . Can be very similar in structure to " <b>Trails</b> ", but usually has longer primary extension. <b>Acadian's</b> face is paler than " <b>Traill's</b> " and usually contrasts much less with the white throat, due to the pale green malar region.	

EMPIDONAX CHECKLIST: EASTERN EMPIDS (10/1/20)					
#	ATTRIBUTE		ALDER FLYCATCHER		
Overview			Distinguished by large bill, indistinct or lacking eye-ring, and white throat contrasting with diffuse, dull olive to brownish breast band.		
1 (A)	Structure	Wings	Wing proportions (wing length & primary projection)	Moderate primary projection.	
2		Wings	Shape of primary tips		
3 (B)		Tail	Tail proportions & shape	Medium length to longish tail that is broad-based and nearly parallel sided (not constricted at the base). Looks noticeably broad compared to the tails of smaller Empids.	
4 (A)		Bill	Bill size, shape & color(s)	Large broad-based bill (most like that of <b>Acadian</b> , but not as broad at the base) which may seem to have a slightly convex edge. Lower mandible frequently entirely fleshy-pink or yellow-orange, but it just as frequently may show a dusky tip. Bill usually appears dark from below, despite the yellow lower mandible. Slightly shorter-billed than eastern <b>Willow</b> .	
5 (A)		Head	Head shape & proportion to body	Slender head. In combination with the long bill, the slender head makes this species appear very long-faced.	
6			Crown of head (peak, crest)	Head is sometimes gently rounded, sometimes peaked toward the rear, but always slender. Possibly rounder-headed than eastern <b>Willow</b> .	
7			Forehead slope	Shallow to medium forehead slope.	
8 (A)		Body	Body shape	Large, lanky <b>Empid</b> with a fairly heavy bill and a long-face.	
9 (A)	Plumage	Eye-ring		Varies from conspicuous, but narrow, to virtually absent. No kick or tear at the rear. <b>Acadian</b> almost always has a conspicuous and complete eye-ring.	
10		Wing-bars		Although the wings are very dark, the contrast in the wing pattern may be lessened by the fact that the wing-bars and tertial edges are often somewhat dull, so the wings may not look as sharply contrasting as in some other eastern <b>Empids</b> . More well-defined white tertial edges, bolder wing-bars and slightly longer primary projection than western subspecies of <b>Willow</b> .	
11 (B)		Throat color & contrast		The most consistent plumage character of <b>Alder</b> (and <b>Willow</b> ) is the white throat, contrasting noticeably with the face and usually contrasting somewhat with a faint breastband. More contrasting white throat than <b>Acadian</b> .	
12 (B)		Upper parts		Dark wings with sharply contrasting tertial edges. Greenish cast on back. Darker head than eastern <b>Willow</b> . In fresh plumage, <b>Alder</b> tends to be strongly washed with olive on the upperparts and has clear gray tones on the face.	
13 (B)		Lower parts		Faint grayish wash across the breast. Whitish or slightly yellowish belly.	
14		Molt		In fresh plumage during spring migration. Undergo molt on the wintering grounds so by fall migrating adult <b>Alders</b> (and <b>Willows</b> ) are in worn plumage. Wing-bars and eye-ring (if any) may be much reduced by wear and the color of their upper parts will be very drab. Juveniles are somewhat fresher in fall, with buffy wing-bars, more yellow on the belly and slightly more color on the upper parts.	
15	Other	Habitat/Micro-habitat		Brushy habitats near bogs.	
16		Behavior		Maneuvers through brush like a frantic warbler. Thrives in low brush and tight vegetative confines (usually within 10 feet of the ground). Tends to be less active. Flicks tail & wings less often.	
17 (A')		Song		Best distinguished by voice. <b>Alder</b> : A falling wheezy <i>weeb-eo</i> . <b>Willow</b> : a sneezy <i>fitz-bew</i> . <b>Alder's</b> song is usually written as <i>fee-bee-oh</i> , but seldom sounds clearly three syllabled. Might be better written as <i>rree-BEEP</i> . Strongly accented on the second syllable.	
18 (B)		Call		<b>Alder</b> : A loud <i>pip</i> . <b>Willow</b> : a liquid <i>wit</i> . Reminiscent of a single note o <b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b> . Unlike the <i>whit</i> of <b>Willow</b> and other Empids. Reminiscent of the pik-note of <b>Three-toed Woodpecker</b> or the chip of <b>White-throated Sparrow</b> .	
19		Migration			
20		Similar species			
				Slightly longer primary projection than western subspecies of <b>Willow</b> . Fractionally longer-winged and longer-tailed than eastern <b>Willow</b> . Tend toward dull-olive upper parts in fresh plumage, some <b>Alders</b> can be a bit more greenish. Both <b>Alder</b> & <b>Willow</b> in fresh plumage tend to show some contrast between head and nape (darkish) and the upper back (greenish). <b>Willows</b> usually appear darker, and their nape appears paler (often with grayish tones). On average, <b>Willows</b> tend to be a paler olive or a somewhat brownish olive or grayish olive on the upper parts (even in fresh plumage), with a grayish or brown-tinged olive wash across the chest. <b>Alders</b> tend to be a bit darker green on the upper parts and auriculars, with a purer olive wash across the chest. Further distinguished from <b>Acadian</b> by upper parts coloration ( <b>Acadian</b> : paler, livelier green on the face and upper parts; " <b>Traill's</b> ": darker, drabber olive, brownish olive or grayish olive). <b>Willow</b> lacks prominent eye-ring. <b>Least</b> is browner above, has shorter bill with dark tip to lower mandible. One of the most "pewee-like" <b>Empids</b> . Virtually identical to eastern subspecies of <b>Willow</b> (except by voice). Fractionally longer-winged and tailed than eastern <b>Willow</b> . <b>Alder</b> & <b>Willow</b> are extremely similar in both structural and plumage characteristics, and though minor average differences in morphology exist (and extreme examples of each species can be identified), there is overlap in every character. Silent migrants are best left as " <b>Traill's</b> ". " <b>Traill's</b> " tend to be drabber than <b>Westerns</b> , <b>Yellow-bellied</b> , or <b>Acadians</b> . " <b>Traill's</b> " are closest structurally to <b>Acadian</b> , but they typically show less primary projection and slightly thinner bills. Further distinguished from <b>Acadian</b> by voice.	

EMPIDONAX CHECKLIST: EASTERN EMPIDS (10/1/20)				
#	ATTRIBUTE		WILLOW FLYCATCHER	
Overview			Distinguished by large bill, indistinct or lacking eye-ring, and white throat contrasting with diffuse, dull olive to brownish breast band. One (or more) subspecies of <b>Willow</b> also present in the West.	
1 (A)	Structure	Wings	Wing proportions (wing length & primary projection)	Moderate primary projection.
2			Shape of primary tips	
3 (B)		Tail	Tail proportions & shape	Moderately long, broad-based and parallel-sided -- a sturdy tail. Other Empids have narrow-based tails or tails that are slightly to moderately flared along their length.
4 (A)		Bill	Bill size, shape & color(s)	Wide and may seem to have a slightly convex edge. Lower mandible usually entirely yellowish pink, but sometimes has a small dusky tip.
5 (A)			Head shape & proportion to body	Slender head. In combination with the long bill, the slender head makes this species appear very long-faced.
6		Head	Crown of head (peak, crest)	Distinct peak on rear crown.
7				Forehead slope
8 (A)			Body	Body shape
9 (A)	Plumage		Eye-ring	Little or no eye-ring.
10			Wing-bars	Off-white and dull. Deep buff on juvenile in fall. Those of adults are faded to grayish white and narrow or obscure in this season. Wing-bars and tertial edges generally whitish, contrasting strongly with blackish wings.
11 (B)			Throat color & contrast	White throat that contrasts well with the dark sides of the face and breast band.
12 (B)			Upper parts	Overall drab. Upper parts are distinctly brownish. Eastern birds have a touch of olive on the back that is so subtle it's probably your imagination. Facial expression is plain. Narrow, pale loreal line.
13 (B)			Lower parts	Pale with a brownish often broken wash on the breast and dirty, white underparts sometimes slightly tinged with yellow.
14			Molt	Undergo molt on the wintering grounds so may appear dingy and worn in late summer.
15	Other		Habitat/Micro-habitat	Low, brushy habitats, often near water.
16			Behavior	Flies nimbly through low brush, not woodlands. A brush hugging Empid that hunts low, sometimes in fairly open habitat, but more often in heavy vegetation, including willow thickets, cattails, and phragmites.
17 (A')			Song	Burly " <b>RITZbew</b> " or " <b>RRRITZbeyew</b> ", often alternating among these variations. Sometimes merely a strong " <b>rrrrrLP</b> ", rough and low with emphatic rising ending.
18 (B)			Call	A thick, liquid " <b>whit</b> " unlike <b>Alder</b> ; averages lower and fuller-sounding than similar calls of other Empids.
19			Migration	
20			Similar species	The extreme similarity between eastern <b>Willows</b> and <b>Alders</b> cannot be stressed enough. Many individuals cannot be identified even in the hand, even by reference to formulae based on careful measurements. With enough experience, eastern birders may be able to say "probably <b>Willow</b> " or "probably <b>Alder</b> " based on visual and then confirm with voice. The relatively dull wing-bars and obscure eye-ring of <b>Willow</b> can make it superficially like a <b>wood-pewee</b> . But <b>pewees</b> have noticeably longer wingtips and narrower bills. <b>Willow</b> subspecies: <b>Trailii</b> in the east. <b>Adastus</b> , <b>brewsteri</b> and <b>extimus</b> in the west. Tend toward dull-olive upper parts in fresh plumage, some <b>Alders</b> can be a bit more greenish. Both <b>Alder</b> & <b>Willow</b> in fresh plumage tend to show some contrast between head and nape (darkish) and the upper back (greenish). <b>Willows</b> usually appear darker, and their nape appears paler (often with grayish tones). On average, <b>Willows</b> tend to be a paler olive or a somewhat brownish olive or grayish olive on the upper parts (even in fresh plumage), with a grayish or brown-tinged olive wash across the chest. <b>Alders</b> tend to be a bit darker green on the upper parts and auriculars, with a purer olive wash across the chest. Further distinguished from <b>Acadian</b> by upper parts coloration ( <b>Acadian</b> : paler, livelier green on the face and upper parts; <b>Trails</b> : darker, drabber olive, brownish olive or grayish olive). <b>Alder</b> bill is slightly shorter, eye-ring usually more prominent, back greener than <b>Willow</b> . <b>Alder</b> has darker head than eastern subspecies of <b>Willow</b> and more well-defined white tertial edges, bolder wing-bars and slightly longer primary projection than western subspecies. <b>Willow</b> lacks prominent eye-ring. <b>Least</b> is browner above, has shorter bill with dark tip to lower mandible and different call.

EMPIDONAX CHECKLIST: WESTERN EMPIDS (10/1/20)				
#	ATTRIBUTE		GRAY FLYCATCHER	
Overview			Tail-dipping is the most distinctive behavioral trait of any Empid.	
1 (A)	Structure	Wing	Wing proportions (wing length & primary projection)	Fairly short primary projection for the size of the bird.
2			Shape of primary tips	
3 (B)		Tail	Tail proportions & shape	Noticeably long-tailed. (Young birds in late summer can be visibly shorter-billed and shorter-tailed than adults).
4 (A)			Bill	Bill size, shape & color(s)
5 (A)		Head		Head shape & proportion to body
6			Crown of head (peak, crest)	Usually looks smoothly rounded.
7			Forehead slope	Moderate.
8 (A)		Body	Body shape	Largish, but slender and evenly proportioned <b>Empid</b> .
9 (A)	Eye-ring		Usually a complete white eye-ring which tends to be somewhat inconspicuous owing to the lack of contrast with the pale gray face. Many individuals show the suggestion of a white spectacle formed by the eye-ring and a whitish supraloral stripe between the top of the eye and the forehead.	
10	Plumage	Wing-bars	The dusky gray wings have dull whitish wing-bars as well as tertial & secondary edges. Low wing-panel contrast.	
11 (B)		Throat color & contrast	Very pale gray-- sometimes nearly white-- but there is no sharp separation of color between throat & sides of head.	
12 (B)		Upper parts	Pale and gray even in fresh plumage. Paler than any other <b>Empid</b> (except the much different <b>Buff-breasted</b> ). Upperparts & face are medium gray, with a faint olive wash on the back, but not on the head. The tail is dark gray with a contrasting white outer vane to the outermost pair of tail feathers. Pale band across forehead. Birds in fresh plumage are a bit darker, often with a slight olive tinge to the mantle.	
13 (B)		Lower parts	Breast is pale to medium gray, usually with a slight olive tinge. Faint yellowish or creamy-buff wash to the belly which may look white in the field.	
14		Molt	Adults go through a complete molt in fall after arriving on the wintering grounds. Juveniles have a partial molt, mostly involving body plumage, which may begin in late summer near breeding areas, but is mostly completed after fall migration. Thus all <b>Gray</b> are in fresh plumage in early winter. During summer as feathers wear, adult <b>Grays</b> become slightly paler and plainer; the shades of yellow below and olive on the back and chest fade even further. While most <b>Empids</b> become grayer in worn plumage, <b>Gray</b> may tend to look more dusty brown, less purely gray, when worn. By late summer the wing-bars can be essentially worn away.	
15	Other	Habitat/Micro-habitat	Breeds in sagebrush desert and foothills, often with pinyon and juniper present. This habitat is unusual amongst <b>Empids</b> and therefore useful in ID.	
16		Behavior	<b>Tail-dipping is the most distinctive behavioral trait of any Empid.</b> It begins with a rapid, very slightly upward twitch, followed by a slower, emphasized downward swing, after which the tail is raised to its original position. Recalls a <b>phoebe</b> rather than any other <b>Empid</b> . Some other <b>Empids</b> (e.g. <b>Least</b> ) sometimes flick the tail down-up instead of up-down, but these are tail flicks almost too rapid for the eye to follow. <b>Gray</b> is relatively inactive often dipping the tail but only infrequently flicking the wings. When foraging, the <b>Gray</b> tends to perch low and often flies down to take insects on or near the ground.	
17 (A')		Song	A simple, uneven repetition of two elements. Most frequent is an emphatic two-syllable note, with a low pitched, almost chirping sound, <b>chuuvip</b> . A higher-pitched, weaker <b>teeah</b> is tossed in at irregular intervals. The two phrases are so different they seem unrelated.	
18 (B)		Call		
19		Migration		
20		Similar species	<b>Dusky</b> is smaller, but similarly proportioned and worn individuals can appear quite gray. <b>Gray</b> is usually distinctly truer and paler gray above (less olive) and whiter below (less yellowish and with a gray, rather than slightly olive wash to breast. The <b>Gray's</b> bill is longer, and the lower mandible is more extensively pale and has a more sharply delineated dark tip.	

EMPIDONAX CHECKLIST: WESTERN EMPIDS (10/1/20)					
#	ATTRIBUTE		HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER		
Overview			Often confused with <b>Dusky</b> , with much overlap in plumage. Their breeding ranges overlap extensively, but <b>Hammond's</b> generally breeds in higher-elevation habitats. Best field marks are the tiny bill (short & thin) and the long primary projection. Often holds the wings away from body, accentuating long primaries.		
1 (A)	Structure	Wings	Wing proportions (wing length & primary projection)	Long wings whose tips sometimes dangle form the bird's side and when fully folded extend beyond the undertail coverts. Longer primary projection than <b>Dusky</b> or <b>Least</b> .	
2			Shape of primary tips		
3 (B)		Tail	Tail proportions & shape	Proportionately short, slightly notched, tail -- the tail is actually of medium length, but because the primary projection is so pronounced, the tail appears short, contributing to the compact, stocky look of the bird. Tail has grayish edges.	
4 (A)		Bill	Bill size, shape & color(s)	Narrow, straight-sided and usually very short. The smallest bill (in proportion to overall size) of any Empid. Lower mandible is usually at least 2/3 dark, fading to dull dusky yellow or pinkish at the base. In both shape and color, bill seems to be more variable than other <b>Empids</b> . The very small & dark, almost <b>Kinglet</b> -like, bill contributes to the "punched-in" look of the face. .	
5 (A)		Head	Head shape & proportion to body	The fairly large, blocky head, and pushed-in face recall <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> .	
6			Crown of head (peak, crest)	Often slightly peaked just back of center.	
7			Forehead slope	Very steep forehead.	
8 (A)		Body	Body shape	Small <b>Empid</b> that tends to look compact overall, with a short tail, short neck, large head and very short bill.	
9 (A)	Plumage		Eye-ring	The white eye-ring is usually conspicuous, complete, well-defined and frequently thicker behind the eye.	
10			Wing-bars	Dusky gray wings have wing-bars and tertial edges that look quite buffy in fresh plumage (fall & winter), fading to dull in spring and summer. Low wing panel contrast.	
11 (B)			Throat color & contrast	Gray-ish head & throat. No sharp contrast between the face & throat.	
12 (B)			Upper parts	Plumage is variable. Rather dark olive breast and back contrasts with gray head. Tends to be grayish olive when worn and darker olive when fresh. Both colors contrast with the grayer head and face. The wings are dusky, and the wing-bars, tertial edges, and secondary edges are a contrasting creamy-white (buff on fresh or juvenile birds).	
13 (B)			Lower parts	The whitish throat and slightly yellow-tinged belly are separated by a pale gray vest. In fall, olive-tinged above, with a contrasting gray head, and more yellowish below. The breast is olive-gray or brownish-gray, usually dark, especially towards the sides. The belly is pale to relatively bright yellow. Often the dark color of the breast extends down the sides and flanks creating a "vested" look. Frequently shows some yellow on the flanks and belly, but not on the throat, however, the presence and extent of yellow are highly variable.	
14			Molt	Adults undergo a complete molt in late summer (late June/July - late August or September), before they leave the breeding grounds. Juveniles have a partial molt (body feathers) before southward migration. Thus, all <b>Hammond's</b> are in fresh plumage during fall migration, with buffy wing-bars, fairly bright yellow on the belly, dark olive-gray on the chest, and contrast between the gray head and olive back. Some undergo a partial prealternate molt on the wintering grounds, of mainly body plumage, but the extent of molt varies by individual. Thus, some are bright and contrasty, while others look dull and faded as they migrate north.	
15			Habitat/Micro-habitat	Usually found in tall conifers. ( <b>Dusky</b> in low chaparral, brush, and small trees.). Prefers wetter, higher elevation forests and more often uses the higher strata of the canopy.	
16			Behavior	Very active <b>Empid</b> with quick perch changes, flicks the tail frequently, often flicking the wings as well, giving it a nervous, hyperactive look. Forages in deciduous trees, making quick, short (often < 1 foot) sallying flights among leaves and branches. Also hovers, flycatches and forages low in the canopy from low branch to low branch. The propensity for wing flicking and the stubby, compact shape and small bill, lends the <b>Hammond's</b> a kinglet-like GISS.	
17 (A')		Other		Song	Heard only on breeding grounds. Sings from top, or near top, of conifers, forages in deciduous trees. Vocalizes for long periods on breeding grounds. Song is like <b>Dusky</b> but hoarser and lower pitched, especially on second note. Variable, but made up of three basic elements. 1) a dry rapid, sharply 2-syllabled <b>chi-pit</b> or <b>tse-brrk</b> . When given by itself this is similar to <b>Least</b> . 2) a rough, low-pitched <b>brrrk</b> . 3) element is similar but vaguely 2-syllabled and rises in pitch, <b>gurrrip</b> . Song can be distinguished from <b>Dusky</b> , but requires concentration.
18 (B)				Call	Most frequent a sharp <b>peep</b> or <b>peek</b> , similar to <b>Pygmy Nuthatch</b> or a single note of <b>Long-billed Dowitcher</b> . Also a soft, descending whistled note and a soft, burry <b>fee-zhee</b> ; both given mainly on the breeding grounds. This call is distinctly different from all other <b>Empids</b> , except <b>Alder</b> with which it is unlikely to be encountered.
19			Migration	Most migrate earlier in spring and later in fall than <b>Dusky</b> .	
20			Similar species	Overall shape of <b>Hammond's</b> is similar to <b>Least</b> , however it's confusion with <b>Dusky</b> is notorious. Many can be separated confidently, while others are difficult, especially when silent. There are structural clues which are helpful for typical birds. <b>Hammond's</b> primary projection is significantly longer than <b>Dusky</b> or <b>Least</b> . <b>Dusky's</b> bill averages longer, with a less extensive dark area at the tip. <b>Dusky</b> has a slightly longer tail on average, emphasized by the much shorter primary projection, and is larger, longer-billed, and shorter-winged. <b>Hammond's</b> is more compact, big-headed, short-billed, short-tailed, and long-winged. The mostly or all dusky lower mandible of the <b>Hammond's</b> is a good clue; most <b>Duskies</b> will have an extensively yellow-orange lower mandible with dusky tip. <b>Hammond's</b> generally breeds at higher elevation than <b>Dusky</b> . Plumage color can be helpful for much of the year for typical birds, but there is much variation in both species; many individuals will appear somewhat intermediary. <b>Hammond's</b> is often darker than <b>Dusky</b> . In fall, <b>Hammond's</b> will be in fresh plumage after molting in early fall before migration, while <b>Dusky</b> will be worn and faded since most do not molt until after traveling to the wintering grounds. In early fall, <b>Dusky</b> looks either very worn and drab (adults) or fairly pale and somewhat worn (juveniles). By early winter, when a handful of <b>Duskys</b> can still be found in the southwest, typical individuals may be separated from <b>Hammond's</b> by the combination of bill size and primary extension. <b>Hammond's</b> is distinguished from <b>Least</b> by grayer throat, gray head contrasting with greenish breast and back, narrower bill with mostly dark lower mandible, and weak contrast on wing coverts and tertials. <b>Least</b> has a slightly longer, but noticeably broader-based bill which is typically more extensively pale on the lower mandible. The lower parts of <b>Hammond's</b> , including flanks, are usually dusker than <b>Least</b> .	

EMPIDONAX CHECKLIST: WESTERN EMPIDS (10/1/20)				
#	ATTRIBUTE		DUSKY FLYCATCHER	
Overview			Often identified mainly by elimination rather than by any distinctive feature of its own. Superficially it seems intermediate between <b>Hammond's</b> and <b>Gray</b> in structure, plumage, and nesting habitat.	
1 (A)	Structure		Wing proportions (wing length & primary projection)	The primary projection is short for the size of the bird, and this contributes to the impression that it is longer-tailed than <b>Hammond's</b> .
2			Shape of primary tips	
3 (B)		Tail	Tail proportions & shape	Rather long, narrow, square or notched. Appears long-tailed -- length is accentuated because it is visibly constricted at the base. Slightly longer than <b>Hammond's</b> .
4 (A)		Bill	Bill size, shape & color(s)	Fairly thin and fairly long, seems flat on top, even ever so slightly upturned. Slightly longer than <b>Hammond's</b> with thin base. Medium-sized & narrow (longer than <b>Hammond's</b> and <b>Least</b> , shorter than <b>Gray</b> , <b>Acadian</b> and " <b>Traill's</b> "). Lower mandible is mostly yellowish-orange to fleshy-pink with dusky tip that bleeds into paler base.
5 (A)		Head	Head shape & proportion to body	Medium-sized, round to flat.
6			Crown of head (peak, crest)	Appears round-headed, even flat-headed & can appear slightly bushy, or square-crested.
7			Forehead slope	Flat to moderate.
8 (A)		Body	Body shape	Medium-sized -- intermediate in size, shape, and plumage between the slightly smaller & more compact <b>Hammond's</b> and the slightly larger, paler <b>Gray</b> . Might be the most average looking <b>Empid</b> .
9 (A)	Plumage		Eye-ring	Although white and well-developed, it is not always conspicuous, because the head is not very dark. May be broken on some individuals. May be conspicuous and lores may be pale-- giving the bird a "spectacled" look -- but some individuals show indistinct eye-rings.
10			Wing-bars	Low wing panel contrast. Dusky wings with dull, narrow, moderately contrasting, whitish wing-bars. Whitish edged tertials and secondaries.
11 (B)			Throat color & contrast	Throat is pale gray, but often looks whitish in bright light. Low contrast.
12 (B)			Upper parts	Plumage typically somewhat drab for much of the year. Back is washed with grayish-olive, but shows little contrast with the gray head. Wings & tail are gray but with a brownish cast. Little head/back contrast. Low contrast edges on wing feathers (compare to <b>Least</b> ). Pale area on the lores is often more pronounced than on other <b>Empids</b> .
13 (B)			Lower parts	Underparts are mostly whitish or pale gray, but the belly is (usually) lightly tinged with yellow, and there is an olive-gray wash across chest. Some birds look like they are wearing a vest; some have uniformly pale underparts.
14			Molt	<b>SPRING:</b> Most <b>Duskys</b> in the US will be brighter in spring than in summer or fall. Some individuals will vary in the brightness of their plumage in spring based on the extent of late winter molt. <b>SUMMER:</b> As the summer progresses, many <b>Duskys</b> fade to the extent that they are gray above and dingy white below, and hence more resemble the <b>Gray</b> . <b>FALL:</b> During fall migration, adults are worn and drab, mostly grayish above and whitish below, with narrow, whitish wing-bars. A few fresh late-fall birds are quite yellow below, but dull compared to <b>Gray</b> . Small numbers winter annually in the southwest and will be brighter after molting. <b>WINTER:</b> Most molts occur on the wintering grounds after fall migration. In early winter (when few remain north of the Mexican border), the freshly molted <b>Duskys</b> are in their most "colorful" plumage, with fairly bright pale yellow on the belly, olive on the back, olive-gray on the chest and pale buff or yellowish wing-bars. Undergoes another partial molt in late winter, more extensive on some birds than others.
15	Other		Habitat/Micro-habitat	Likes open space; avoids vegetative clutter, but is fond of willow patches in forest openings. Tend to occupy drier forests at lower elevations and often forage low among the inner branches of trees. Also occupy some of the drier, higher-elevation forests right at timberline and are more likely to be found foraging low in the shrubbery of alpine meadows. Choice of nest site is fairly consistently different than <b>Hammond's</b> ; <b>Dusky</b> usually builds nest about 12 feet off the ground, <b>Hammond's</b> much higher. On the breeding grounds <b>Dusky</b> can be found singing and foraging in very open situations, while <b>Hammond's</b> spends more time surrounded by dense vegetation.
16			Behavior	Intermediate in activity. Less lethargic than " <b>Traill's</b> " and <b>Acadian</b> but less active than <b>Hammond's</b> and <b>Least</b> . Frequently flicks tail like other <b>Empids</b> , but only occasionally flips wings, mostly upon changing perches. On average wing-flicks & tail-jerks less than <b>Hammond's</b> , but when agitated, becomes as jerky as the next <b>Empid</b> . Occasionally flicks tail while perched, but not as often wings, but this is too variable to be a field mark. Likes to perch conspicuously -- often on dead branches, often close to the trunk. Sallies out to capture insects, generally not returning to the same perch. Also works upward through the foliage, gleaning insects from leaves and branches by sallying flights and hovering. Occasionally flies and lands on ground to capture prey.
17 (A')			Song	Variable but with 3 basic elements. 1) a short, medium-pitched <b>chirp</b> rising slightly and sounding vaguely 2-syllabled. 2) a rough note <b>ggrrreep</b> , starting on a lower pitch and slurring upward. 3) Clear, high-pitched <b>pweet</b> . Some elements may be left out, or repeated, but the usual song sequence is <b>chirp...ggrrrreep...pweet</b> or <b>chirp...ggrrrreep...chirp...pweet</b> .
18 (B)			Call	A soft dry <b>whit</b> very different from the sharp peek of <b>Hammond's</b> . Female's call is slightly lower (apparent when both are calling). Also a fuller <b>twip</b> similar to <b>Willow</b> , <b>Least</b> and <b>Gray</b> .
19			Migration	
20				Similar species

EMPIDONAX CHECKLIST: WESTERN EMPIDS (10/1/20)				
#	ATTRIBUTE		"WESTERN" FLYCATCHER	
Overview			Pacific-slope & Cordilleran are generally not separable in the field. Distinguished from other Empids by overall greenish color, crested-look, eye-ring shape and typically yellow lower mandible.	
1 (A)	Structure		Wing proportions (wing length & primary projection)	Fairly short primary extension. Slightly shorter wings than Yellow-bellied.
2			Shape of primary tips	
3 (B)		Tail	Tail proportions & shape	Fairly long, narrow tail. May appear slightly long-tailed for its size. Tail longer than Yellow-bellied.
4 (A)		Bill	Bill size, shape & color(s)	Big-bill with wide base that appears triangular from directly above or below. Lower mandible is entirely and conspicuously fleshy-pink to yellow-orange.
5 (A)			Head shape & proportion to body	Proportionately large-headed.
6		Head	Crown of head (peak, crest)	Distinctly peaked at the rear of the crown.
7			Forehead slope	
8 (A)		Body	Body shape	A classically built Empid; not long, not short. Burly chest. Less compact than Yellow-bellied.
9 (A)	Plumage		Eye-ring	Conspicuous, white or yellowish-white and usually has a distinctive shape; narrowed or even broken across the top of the eye, broadened (often to a point) behind the eye, for a teardrop or almond shaped effect.
10			Wing-bars	Usually look dull whitish, without strong contrast. Less contrast on wing-bars and tertial edges than Yellow-bellied.
11 (B)			Throat color & contrast	Low contrast throat. The only western Empid with yellow (dull pale yellow or grayish yellow) on the throat.
12 (B)			Upper parts	Brownish-olive overall; brownest on rump. Browner overall with drabber wing markings than Yellow-bellied. Pacific-slope & Cordilleran are virtually identical, but Cordilleran seems richer and more color-saturated. Pacific-slope averages browner.
13 (B)			Lower parts	Birds in fresh plumage are distinctly yellowish on the throat and from the belly up to the center of the chest. A vague, olive or brownish-olive breast band crosses the chest and extends as a wash down the sides. Worn birds (throughout the summer) may show almost no yellow tones below.
14		Molt	Fresh plumaged juveniles in mid-summer have noticeably buffy wing-bars. Adults at that season are becoming worn, and by late summer may be very pale below -- some show essentially no yellow on the throat in early fall. Prebasic molt after arriving on the wintering grounds is complete in adults, partial in juveniles. The prealternate molt occurs in late winter just before the birds migrate north; Cordilleran tends to replace more of the coverts than Pacific-slope.	
15	Other		Habitat/Micro-habitat	
16			Behavior	Active Empid which frequently flicks the wings and tail simultaneously, perhaps more than any other except Hammond's.
17 (A')			Song	Cordilleran and Pacific-slope barely differ in song. In Cordilleran, ptik note has first syllable higher than second; the reverse is true in Pacific-slope. Songs are commonly given by migrants as well as breeding birds. Pacific-slope males give an emphatic pseyeep (or psee-yeet) that sounds distinctly upslurred.
18 (B)			Call	Separable in the field only by male call. Pacific-slope: a sharp seet. Cordilleran: a two-note upslurred see-seet. Some populations in overlap zone give intermediate calls. Pacific-slope gives a sharp, somewhat metallic szit or szik!. The common call of the male Cordilleran is more distinctly two-syllabled tree-ip! Cordilleran also gives a short, sharp seet!
19			Migration	
20			Similar species	Virtually no difference in color between the Cordilleran and Pacific-slope. The strong green and yellow tones will usually separate the Western from other Empids in its range. But in late summer and fall, some Westerns have no visible yellow on the throat. Note the wide bill with pale lower mandible, appearance of the eye-ring, call notes, etc. In winter in the southwest, may be mistaken for Hammond's or Dusky because those species have conspicuous yellow on the belly at that season. However, the lack of yellow on the throat on these fresh-plumaged winter birds should eliminate confusion. Western vs Yellow-bellied may be more difficult. Although their normal ranges barely overlap, stray Westerns and Yellow-bellied do turn up out of range. Call-notes are the best distinction. Overall colors differ slightly; Yellow-bellied has stronger green tones, while Western tends toward duller green above and more buffy or brownish-yellow below. Yellow-bellied tend to have blacker wings, setting off the wing-bars and tertial edges in sharper contrast. The eye-ring tends to be more tear-drop shaped in Western and of more even thickness on the Yellow-bellied. Western tends to be slightly longer-tailed and to have more peak to the crown, while Yellow-bellied may look more round-headed or bushy-headed. However, all of these points are variable, subtle and hard to detect without direct comparison.

EMPIDONAX CHECKLIST: EASTERN EMPIDS (9/24/20)				
#	ATTRIBUTE		PEWEEES	
Overview				
1 (A)	Structure	Wings	Wing proportions (wing length & primary projection)	Longer wings than <b>Empids</b> , often appearing to extend a third of the way down the tail.
2			Shape of primary tips	
3 (B)		Tail	Tail proportions & shape	Short straight tail.
4 (A)		Bill	Bill size, shape & color(s)	Narrower bill than <b>Willow</b> . Black upper mandible, dull orange lower mandible.
5 (A)		Head	Head shape & proportion to body	Large, somewhat shaggy and peaked head.
6			Crown of head (peak, crest)	Shaggy and peaked. More distinctly peaked than <b>Empids</b> .
7			Forehead slope	
8 (A)		Body	Body shape	Larger than <b>Empids</b> . Smaller than <b>Eastern Phoebe</b> . Sturdier and more angular than <b>Eastern Phoebe</b> . Wide body. Shorter legs than <b>Empids</b> , so often appear to be sitting on feet.
9 (A)	Plumage	Eye-ring	Only a hint of an eye-ring (just a narrow pale area behind the eye). Black eye, set on the pale gray face.	
10		Wing-bars	Adults: obvious white wing-bars. Juveniles: buffy wing-bars. However, wing-bars are usually less distinct than most <b>Empids</b> (but the same could be said for many <b>Willows</b> ).	
11 (B)		Throat color & contrast	Not so contrastingly white on the throat as <b>Willow</b> .	
12 (B)		Upper parts	Dark (in comparison to <b>Empids</b> ). Overall grayish with a slight greenish cast to the back and no distinct contrast between the head and back. Paler on nape. <b>Western Wood-pewee</b> averages darker.	
13 (B)		Lower parts	Whitish or pale yellow below. Dusky "vest" (heavier than <b>Empids</b> ). Grayish "smudges" on undertail coverts.	
14		Molt		
15	Other	Habitat/Micro-habitat	In and along edges of woods.	
16		Behavior	Chooses fairly high conspicuous perches and returns to it repeatedly. Does not flick the tail when perched.	
17 (A')		Song	Slow, measured 2-part plaintive lament -- a question followed by an answer. A 2 or 3 note question " <b>Pee-whEE?</b> " or " <b>Pee-urr-EE?</b> " ending on a high note, followed by a long pause and then a reply " <b>PEE-urr</b> ".	
18 (B)		Call		
19		Migration		
20		Similar species		

## THE EMPID CHECKLIST

COMPILED FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES BY Jeffrey E. Patterson

- 1) *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* , (7th Edition)  
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- 6) *Peterson Reference Guide to Birding by Impression: A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds* , 2015 Karlson, Kevin T., Rosselet, Dale.
- 7) *Empid Identification Powerpoint* , Lee, Cin-Ty,  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54b9bb6fe4b07b4a7d145b55/t/573a7a4960b5e908af3foa48/1463450185977/Empid+identification>.
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