

# THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

## YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 62

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by Ric Cohn

### Scissor-tailed Flycatcher



I always enjoy seeing bird behaviors that are new to me. But it is hard not to make assumptions about what it means.

I had my first close view of scissor-tailed flycatchers in Arkansas last May. I'd always thought they were handsome birds, but I didn't realize how beautiful the underwing plumage is until I saw this male and female flying around each other. I had been watching a male and female sitting near each other looking for insects, and when I saw a female perched on a branch with what looked like nesting material, with a male close by, I assumed they were a mated pair. But were they? Maybe.

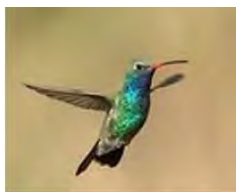
Soon afterward, I saw what I assumed to be the same male and female flying around each other in what I interpreted as a “sky dance.” I imagined this as a beautiful bonding behavior, and in my imagination turned their behavior into an expression of pure love. Sadly, I later learned that females are well known for chasing away males that invade their nesting territory. Could it be a pair? I thought so. But can I be sure? Unfortunately, no. It was still a delight to see.







If you would like to see your photographs highlighted here, send one or two pictures with a short paragraph to Sandy Sorkin & Rick Wright at [MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com](mailto:MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com).



Southwest Wings

