

= Flammulated flycatcher =

The flammulated flycatcher (*Deltarhynchus flammulatus*) is a species of bird in the Tyrannidae family and is the only species in the monotypic genus *Deltarhynchus* , although it is closely related to the birds of the genus *Myiarchus* . It is endemic to the dry deciduous forest , arid thorn forest , and scrubby woodland of Mexico ' s Pacific coast . The flycatcher is an olive to gray @-@ brown bird with a streaked , pale gray chest , white throat , black bill , dark gray feet , and dark brown wings . It is a skulking bird that typically remains hidden in the underbrush . It feeds by gleaning insects off of leaves and twigs that it spots from an exposed perch . The female lays approximately three eggs in a nest made in a shallow tree cavity .

= = Taxonomy = =

The species was first described in 1875 by ornithologist George Newbold Lawrence , who placed this species in the genus *Myiarchus* . However , in 1893 it was split from *Myiarchus* into the new , monotypic genus *Deltarhynchus* by Robert Ridgway because of its shorter and broader bill , more rounded wings , and partially streaked underparts . This change was upheld in 1901 by Richard Bowdler Sharpe and by subsequent authors . However , in 1977 ornithologist Melvin Alvah Traylor Jr . , while upholding its status as a monotypic genus , said that the species should be lumped back into *Myiarchus* if its nesting habits were similar to those of that genus . These doubts were put to rest by Wesley Lanyon ' s research of the flycatcher in 1979 , which confirmed the bird ' s placement in a monotypic genus .

Deltarhynchus is similar to the genus *Myiarchus* , but is distinguished from it by a broader and shorter bill , more rounded wings , a different face pattern , pale cinnamon wing and tail edgings , voice , streaking on the chest , and the bird ' s skulking habits . The flammulated flycatcher ' s generic name is derived from the Ancient Greek words *delta* , which means " delta @-@ shaped " or , in this case , " wedge " , and *rhynchos* , which means " beak " . Its specific epithet is derived from the Latin word *flammula* , which means " little flame " . The flycatcher has no subspecies .

= = Description = =

The flammulated flycatcher is approximately 6 to 6 @.@ 5 inches (15 @-@ 16 @.@ 5 cm) in length and has a chunky body . Adult males and females are similar in plumage , with each possessing olive to a worn gray @-@ brown upperparts and head . A whitish supraloral stripe and crescent are behind the bird ' s eyes . It also has a dusky lore . The throat is whitish and the chest is a pale gray with inconspicuous dusky streaking , while the belly and undertail coverts are a pale yellow . Additionally , this species has dark brown , well @-@ rounded wings with pale cinnamon @-@ edged coverts and remiges . The wings are about 3 inches (76 mm) long . The tail is also a dark brown edged with a narrow band of pale cinnamon . It is barely shorter than the wing and slightly rounded . The bird ' s bill is black , broad , and triangular with a slightly paler base and about half the length of the its head . The legs are a dark gray and end with large , curved , and sharp claws . It has an orange mouth and a brown eye . The juvenile is similar to the adult , although the tail has a broad band of pale cinnamon .

= = = Vocalization = = =

The flammulated flycatcher mostly sings from April to August , which includes its breeding season , and tends to remain hidden while singing . The song of the flycatcher is a plaintive whistle followed by a short but quick roll . It can also give a plaintive and slurred chew call , which is often sung three to five times in a descending series , as well as a squeaky chatter . Calls are the same for males and females and are given throughout the day to give a location , identify an individual , sound an alarm , and mark the limits of a territory , among other functions . During the breeding season , males give what is known as a dawn song every morning , which includes the calls chee @-@ bee

beet and churr @-@ r @-@ r @-@ bee bee in alternation .

= = Distribution and habitat = =

This flycatcher is endemic to the Pacific lowlands of Mexico 's western coast from Sinaloa to western Chiapas , while possibly extending into Guatemala , although this has not been confirmed . The total area that it lives in is estimated to be 66 @,@ 000 km2 (25 @,@ 482 @.@ 7 sq mi) . Its range is discontinuous and it is found in low densities when present . It lives in dry deciduous forest , arid and semi @-@ arid thorn forest , and scrubby woodland at about 1000 ? 1400 meters (3280 ? 4593 ft) above sea level . This species is non @-@ migratory .

= = = Status = = =

The flammulated flycatcher is listed as being of least concern on the IUCN Red List due to its large range and the belief that the total population numbers over 10 @,@ 000 individuals ; however , no precise estimate on the bird 's population exists . While the species is known to be uncommon in parts of its range , its population is not believed to be declining enough to pass the threshold of 30 % in ten years or three generations necessary to be listed as near threatened , although the exact population trends also have not been quantified .

= = Ecology and behavior = =

This flycatcher is a sluggish and skulking species that usually remains in the underbrush . When excited either by an intruder or when attempting to attract a mate , this species raises the feathers on its crown to form what appears to be a crest ; however , unlike the closely related genus *Myiarchus* , it does not bob its head while displaying the crest .

= = = Feeding = = =

The flammulated flycatcher forages by perching on an open branch and looking outward and downward for prey , which primarily consists of insects . Once it spots a potential meal , the flycatcher rapidly and directly flies at the insect , which is normally on the exposed upper surface of a leaf or twig . It hovers briefly before the insect before grabbing it in its beak and flying away to typically a new perch .

= = = Reproduction = = =

The flycatcher breeds around June of each year . It nests in shallow tree cavities that are surprisingly close to the ground , at approximately 90 centimeters above it . The nest is shaped like a cup and is composed of fine vegetable fibers , dried leaves , and shredded bark . Unlike the similar *Myiarchus* flycatchers , it does not use snakeskin or other materials to build its nest . The female lays three eggs that are creamy to pinkish in color and are decorated with brown and gray splotches .