Cyperus eragrostis Lam., TALL FLATSEDGE. Perennial herb, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, cespitose, shoots unbranched with terminal ascending to erect inflorescences, in range (10–)30–130 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves (to 7 green basal leaves at flowering) + several–15 leaflike inflorescence bracts subtending reproductive canopy at tip of stem, glabrous; rhizomes vertical and horizontal, the vertical portion cormlike, horizontal rhizome to 9 mm diameter, whitish to pale tan, solid, covered with persisting fibers of leaf sheaths. **Stems (culms):** 3-sided (cylindric), to 11 mm diameter, rounded on edges (acute when dry), green, tough, having numerous fine reddish brown veins at base; with narrow air canals and a central, whitish, solid core, with many fibrous vascular bundles. **Leaves:** alternate tristichous, simple with sheath; sheath closed but splitting in age, membranous from a V-shaped or truncate throat to base (of the longest leaves), 45–130 mm long (increasing upward), green turning brownish, with conspicuous, reddish parallel veins; ligule absent; blade sharply keeled base to tip and V-shaped at base above becoming flat, linear, 10–600 × 4–17 mm, very short on first leaf increasing upward, the widest at base, minutely toothed and finely scabrous on margins, long-tapered at tip, parallel-veined, ± glossy, lower surface finely scabrous along keel. **Inflorescence:** leafy paniclelike and umbel-like arrays, terminal, with spikelets on 7–15 principal branches in dense, headlike clusters at ends of axes, array of large plant with primary branches and several secondary branches, each primary branch subtended by an inflorescence bract, the largest secondary branches sometimes also with lateral branches; headlike cluster to 30 mm across, with many congested spikelets, on ascending to suberect, primary and secondary branches, each primary branch subtended by an inflorescence bract (terminal spikelet cluster bractless) + a sheathing "bract" (prophyll); inflorescence bracts subtending primary branches alternate and somewhat tristichous, spreading to pendent and lax, leaflike but sheathless and fused to 2 faces of stem, linear, 20–800 × 2–15.5 mm, successively shorter and narrower from base to tip of array, most bracts > rays and to 8 >> or > reproductive canopy, successively shorter and narrower from base to tip of array, the shortest bract threadlike above its base, minutely toothed and finely scabrous on margins; prophyll sheath closed 1/3 to 3/4 length, to 4–8 mm long, green aging scarious, 1–2-keeled and 1–2-winged above midpoint, truncate at tip, many-veined, veins red or purple above pulvinus; primary branch axis with pulvinus on upper side at base, compressed front-to-back, short–110 mm long, successively shorter from base to tip of array, the pulvinus short-ringlike and whitish to greenish; the rachis 3-angled to 12 mm long and hidden by spikelets; lower bracts subtending secondary ray partially sheathing and mostly linear, to 10 mm long, successively shorter and narrower from base to tip of array, white often with membranous margin below midpoint, green and keeled above midpoint with upward-pointing, colorless teeth on margins approaching acuminate tip and along keel (longer bracts), prophyll of secondary ray sheathing and membranous, open, < primary prophyll; secondary ray with rachis short–7 mm long, irregularly ridged, with highly condensed spikelets and the largest with short branchlets, branchlets with minor greenish pulvinus and sheathing bract; axis of branchlets 0–3 mm long below spikelets; bractlets subtending the lowest spikelets paired, boatlike, to 5 mm long reduced upward, sharply keeled, the keel green and minutely serrulate, other bractlets not sheathing, membranous, 1–5 mm long, the longer ones long acuminate-lanceolate, the shorter ones obtuse-obovate. **Spikelet:** 2–3-order on inflorescence, initially 5–10-flowered elongating to 70-flowered, with ripe fruits

and scales abscising at base while upper portion flowering, strongly flattened, lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate or linear-oblong in outline, in range (5–)7–20 × 2.5–3 mm, with alternate distichous bractlets (floral scales) subtending sessile flowers; **glumes** (bracts subtending spikelet) 2, membranous, long-acuminate lanceolate reduced upward to broadly elliptic, 1–2 mm long, upper glume broader and sheathing axis, strongly keeled; axis (rachilla) without pulvinus and not jointed, internodes ca. 1.3 mm long, winged with wing enveloping flower, persistent; bractlets (floral scales) overlapping, sheathing and clasping, broadly lanceolate cupped around flower, 2–2.5 mm long, green but colorless on wide margins aging whitish to pale tan, conspicuously 2-keeled at base and with midvein, slightly concave between keels at base to weakly 1-keeled at tip, entire, acuminate at tip, 3-veined, glabrous, persistent; flowers subsessile. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth** absent; **stamens** 1, free, included; filaments 0.2–0.5 mm long, whitish translucent; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.9–1.1 mm long, pale yellow with whitish, acuminate sterile tip, base with colorless lobes, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, equally 3-sided and slightly obovoid, 0.5–0.8 mm long, greenish, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style ± 1.5 mm long, translucent, 3-branched below midpoint, the branches exserted, threadlike, stigmatic. **Fruit:** achene, released with partially enclosing, light brown bractlet, short-stalked (to 0.1 mm long); achene equally 3-sided obovoid with short beak, 1.2–1.4 × 0.5–0.6 mm, light brown to dark brown (blackish), edges blunt, faces with fine whitish network (= frosted appearance); beak 0.2–0.3 mm long. Mid-June–early October.

Naturalized. Perennial herb commonly observed throughout range growing on pond edges and creek beds but especially along drainage ditches with standing water during summer months. *Cyperus eragrostis* is a species with great variation in plant size, and the largest individuals have leaves and inflorescence bracts that are exceedingly long, and the spikelets are densely packed in headlike clusters.
B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson