Tǫ́n. Long tail. Tǫ́nkînî.

(What?)

Tǫ́nkînî. Tǫ́nkînî. That's the Kiowa name for scissor-tail. Tǫ́nkînî.

(How did you say--)

Tǫ́nkînî. That means long tail.

(How do you say tail? Just tail?)

Tǫ́n. Tǫ́n. Just like I say horse tail. Cêtǫ́n. Horse is cê, and the tail is tǫ́n. Cêtǫ́n.

(Cêtǫ́n.)

Yeah. And tǫ́nkînî is long tail.

(Oh. What I was going to ask you, when they use a bunch of these scissor-tail feathers in the ceremony, do they try to get them all the same length?)

You say the same length?

(Uh-huh.)

No. Not officially or it's compulsory, but most of them are the same length. But I have seen them in different lengths.

(How many feathers would they need to have to put together in a fan?)

Well, the smallest I could see must be about twenty. Twenty feathers. And some of them more. The more you have the prettier they are. And less you have, they don't show up too well. So I just have two, it don't show up good. Well, five or ten would show up. So the more they have, it shows up. And the more uniform they are, they're prettier. That's reason--that's one of the reasons I think they don't have many different lengths. But I have seen some shorter than others. But not many short ones. They may be one or two inches shorter. A few of them, but not too many of them short ones. They try to carry them all the same length. Near as