

(FIRST STATE RECORD)

CFO-ORC FILE # 1998-80

ACCEPTED (7-0) *read 12/48* PHOTOS x 2  
COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD | | UNUSUAL RECORD | |

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Green Violet-ear *(Vernacular Name)* Colibri thalassinus *(Scientific Name)*

Date(s): July 26 and 27, 1998

Number of birds seen: 1 (one) Sex: Male Plumage: green w/blue patches

Locality: 670 County Road 206 Elevation: 6550 ft.

Nearest town: Durango, Colorado County: LaPlata

Time(s) observed: 5:45-7:00 p.m. on July 26, 1998 and 7:15-7:45 AM, July 27, 1998

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1 1/4 hrs. on July 26 and 1/2 hr. July 27

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Gary Winkelman, 1028 S. Ramsey, Blue Earth, MN 56013, (507) 526-3780

Jennifer Pixler, 670 County Road 206, Durango, CO 81301 (970) 247-2023

Don Pixler, 670 County Road 206, Durango, CO 81301 (970) 247-2023

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Kip Stransky, 533 County Road 219, Durango, CO 81301 (970) 247-8138  
(did not see the bird, but looked at the pictures)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Diffused light; late afternoon, early evening, in shaded area

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Sears 8 power lens (wide angle)

Distance, and how measured: between 5 and 10 feet; feeder on our deck and brush  
about 5' away

If photographed, type of equipment and film: 35 mm camera with 200 mm lens, Kodak 200 film  
(photographed by my brother, Gary Winkelman)

Who else photographed the bird? no one

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

The hummingbird was perched on the end of a small trunk of a bush. It would make a loud clicking sound ("click-click") and then fly to the feeder. Each time he made that sound, he was flying to the feeder.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

The bird was noticeably larger than other hummingbirds in this area (Broad-tailed, Black-chinned and Rufous), and the tail seemed longer. It was green with ~~white~~ violet and blue patches on its face and breast (see Exhibit A). The bill was slightly down-curved, the wings dark, or black, and the tail long with dark band near the end. (See Exhibit B ~~feathers~~ wings and tail)

The loud clicking sound was attention-getting and I knew it was something different.

Description (continued):

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

"Song" was a loud insect-like double click and was given when leaving its perch and flying to the hummingbird feeder. It lasted only a few seconds and was given two or three times each time it left its perch and fed.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian and landscaped backyard.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Did not have eye stripe (white) or white on end of tail as a Blue-throated;  
Did not have green throat or purple crown as Magnificent;  
Did not have red bill or blue gorget as Broad-billed.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

This was the first time I have ever seen a Green Violet-ear. I have seen the above mentioned species several times at Cave Creek, Arizona.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

- a) at time of observation: National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America; my brother Gary Winkelman who is a birder and was visiting at the time
- b) after observation: Kip Stransky, a long time birder here in Durango; all confirmed my decision

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation  from memory

Date and time report was written: September 3, 1998 (11 AM to 1 PM)

Reporting observer: Marlene Pixler Signature: Marlene Pixler

Address: 670 County Road 206

Durango, Colorado 81301-7683

Return to:

Bill Prather

C.F.O. Official Records Committee

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