

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAIR BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

31-89-27

Species: Magnificent Hummingbird
(Vernacular name)

~~Eugenes Sulzrus~~
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 6/20/89 Time Bird Seen: Mid-afternoon ca 3-4 PM to

Locality: Haviland Lake Campground
ca 25 miles north of Durango on US Rte 550
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 8x40 hiking binoculars + unaided eyes

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Imm. male or aberrant female?

Light conditions: Sunny - bird in sun + light shade

Distance from bird, and how measured: 10-20 ft

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Zippering around between + feeding on several clumps of bright red cactus flowers.

Observed for at least 3-5 minutes.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Mountain slope & open, mostly coniferous woods - low groundcover (maybe grazed) with cactus, bare rock + misc. forbs + grass

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

~~Harry Baughman - 113 Pleasant St. - Newark, Oh 43005~~

~~Dr. Buzz King - 3066 Maryland - Col. Oh 43209~~

~~Elaine Barnum - 357 Starret Ct - Columbus, Oh 43214~~

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Much larger & darker than broad-tailed hummingbird it replaced at the cactus. Green back, dark gray breast & throat, short white line behind the eye, white spots in corners of tail, pink-lavender crown when it caught the sun. Long bill was dark with slight drop at the tip. Crown color only evident in sun, otherwise head was dark.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Sharp chirp note & usual hummer wing noise - in flight

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Size & white eye line indicate blue-throated or magnificent. Males crown made us think magnificent - maybe immature male because of white in tail or female with aberrant head plumage &/or hormone balance.

We had a lot of NGS Field guide study & discussion about this bird but are certain of field marks cited & that head color was from feathers, not pollen or other foreign matter.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have seen this species well in Arizona, New Mexico & Texas

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory X.

NAME (print): JULIET A. HOWARD 3

Mailing address: 316 Richards Rd - Columbus, OH 43214

Signature: Juliet A. Howard

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205