

ACCEPTED 7-0

Magnificent Hummingbird -- October 18, 1997 -- Christopher L. Wood
2nd 10-18-97

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Rarity Report Form

Common Name: Magnificent Hummingbird Scientific Name: *Eugenes fulgens*

Number of Individuals: 1 Sex: Female Age: Adult

Locality: Colorado: Douglas County: 6859 Beaver Run; Roxborough Park Subdivision

Date(s) Seen: October 18, 1997 Time: Seen on three occasions from 2:20 – 5:15pm.

Reporting Observer: Christopher L. Wood

Other Observers: Bob and LeaAnn Brown, Joey Kellner, Scott Menough, Burt Paredes (homeowner), David Quesenberry, Ira Sanders and Karleen Schofield. Seen on later dates by Dan Bridges, Bob Dickson, Norm Erthal, J.B. Hayes, Tony Leukering and many others.

Light Conditions: Slightly backlit until about 4:30pm. After 4:30 the sun was behind the foothills creating excellent light conditions with no shadows.

Optical Equipment: 10x42 B&L Elite, 15-60 power B&L Elite Scope

Distance to Bird: 12-25 feet Duration of Observation: Total of twelve minutes.

Habitat: Hummingbird feeder at residence in Roxborough Park Subdivision. Surrounding hillside covered primarily with grasses and Gamble's Oak.

Behavior: About five minutes after Joey Kellner and I arrived, the hummingbird flew in. It stayed at the feeder for about five seconds, flew into a nearby tree, perched for less than fifteen seconds and flew off. About twenty minutes later the bird returned to the feeder for about two seconds. As it came in it called once. It then flew into the same tree and landed. It perched alertly for about five minutes at which point it flew off. Around five o'clock the hummingbird returned to the feeder. While hovering, it fed for about forty-five seconds, during which I watched it through my scope. While feeding it occasionally fanned and pumped its tail, revealing whitish corners to the tail. It then flew into the tree it had perched in before, sat for a couple of minutes and then flew off. At all times the hummingbird was very alert.

Description:

Overall Size and Shape: A large hummingbird with a proportionately long black bill (about 1.5 times the width of the head). Crown appearing flat. Thick nape.

Head: Crown and nape green, each feather with very slight gray tip. Conspicuous white post-ocular spot blending into whitish eye line. Eye line evident, but not as conspicuous as post-ocular spot. Ear-patch dark gray, almost black, bordered above by eye line, and below by faint short white stripe extending from base of bill to ear-patch below eye.

Upperparts: Iridescent green.

Underparts: Overall appeared mottled gray. Throat darker, appearing densely spotted. Flanks with patches of iridescent golden-green. Undertail coverts and vent not noted.

Wings: When perched, extending to tip of tail. Overall slate gray. It seemed that some wing coverts were green, matching the color of the upperparts, but I couldn't tell exactly which ones.

Tail: Bronze green toward base. When perched appeared to be fairly uniform in color, probably because most of the tail was covered by primaries. When in flight, whitish-gray corners to tail evident, especially when tail was spread.

Bare Parts: Legs, bill, eye and black.

Other notes: Bird quite different from the rather poor illustration in NGS guide. Eye line not as uniform. More separate and quite obvious post-ocular spot. Black ear-patch not as well defined, and bordered by faint whitish line below (almost like white patch shown on Blue-throated Hummingbird, though not as conspicuous). Bill straight, not decurved as shown. While the front of the crown was slightly darker than the hindcrown and nape, it was not nearly as dark as is illustrated.

Vocalizations: The second time the hummingbird came in it called once. Its call was a sharp "schtip!" This call was lower, quicker and sharper than that of Blue-throated Hummingbird.

Similar Species: Female Blue-throated Hummingbird is similar, but has a blackish tail with obscenely conspicuous white patches on the corners of tail. Call notes of Blue-throated Hummingbird is usually repeated, higher pitched, more drawn out and not as sharp. Blue-throated Hummingbird *usually* has a stronger facial pattern, although there is some overlap. Magnificent Hummingbirds also tend to have flatter crowns, thick napes, and bills that appear stretched out.

Photographs? I believe Tony Leukering took some photos the following Monday.

References: Peterson's Western guide and NGS guide at time of observation.

Description from: Contemporaneous notes; Later notes; Memory.

Experience with Species: Blue-throated and Magnificent Hummingbirds studied in Arizona in 1990, 1992, and most recently in August of 1997. During the last trip, Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Ira Sanders and I made deliberate efforts to study female plumages and to compare call notes of different hummingbird species.

Are you Positive of the Identification?: Yes.

Signature: Christopher L. Wood
Date: December 71, 1997

ACCEPTED AS 1997-56
(7-0)
CFO-ORC FILE # 1998-81

12/18 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: MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD
(Vernacular Name)

Eugenes fulgens TROCHILIDAE
(Scientific Name)

Date(s): 19 OCTOBER 1997

Number of birds seen: 1 (one) Sex: FEMALE Plumage: _____

Locality: ROXBOROUGH PARK (SUBDIVISION) Elevation: _____

Nearest town: _____ County: DOUGLAS COUNTY

Time(s) observed: 0900 to 1100 hrs.

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): FREQUENT TRIPS TO FEEDER

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

TONY LEUKERING AND BRIAN GIBBONS, CBO

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

UNKNOWN, THOUGH FIVE BIRDERS OBSERVED THE HUMMINGBIRD THIS MORNING. I SAW IT.

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

STRONG LIGHT TO DULL LIGHT UNDER CLOUDS. (SEE PHOTOS)

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8X BINOC

Distance, and how measured: 20' - WALKED OFF (PACED) DECK

If photographed, type of equipment and film: 300mm CANON 600 TRIPOD FILM = EB-100 Elite

Who else photographed the bird? TONY LEUKERING

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

FLEW UP TO FEEDER, ABOUT 5-6 MINS BETWEEN FEEDINGS. PERCHED IN POLARIS OF PARADES' GARDEN.

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:

LITTLE HUMMINGBIRD. GREEN BACK, SIDES, NECK, CROWN. DARK WINGS.

Description (continued):

BILL: LONG, DARK

HEAD: GREEN WITH SHORT WHITE STRIPE BEHIND EYE, AND SMALL WHITE PATCH AT BASE OF BILL (SEE PHOTO - ACTUALLY CROPPED IT IN FLIGHT PHOTO!)

Body: GREEN

WINGS: DARKISH (BROWN?)

TAIL: DARK WITH SMALL WHITE PATCHES IN CORNER (SEE FLIGHT PHOTO)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): SILENT MOSTLY, BUT OCCASIONAL HUMMINGBIRD "CHIP" COMING IN TO FEEDER

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: COMING TO FEEDER.

GARDEN PLANTINGS WERE USED FOR PERCHING, ALSO WILD PLANTS ON THE HILLSIDE (FOOTHILL SCRUB OAK HAB. TYP.) ↗ and COVER

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? FEMALE BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD HAS MORE WHITE IN TAIL, AND WHITE FACE STRIPE ARE MORE BOLD. THE WINKER MARK OF THIS BIRD WAS VERY SUBDUESED COMPARED TO ♀ BLUE-THROATED HUMMER.

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

MAGNIFICENT AND BLUE-THROATED BOTH PHOTOGRAPHED BEFORE IN ARIZONA.
SEEN FREQUENTLY IN ARIZONA AND MEXICO ON VARIOUS TRIPS

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

- at time of observation: NONE. NOTED FIELD MARKS OF FACE, TAIL IN DISCUSSION
- after observation: MASTER GUIDE VOL. 2, NG'S FIELD GUIDE, PETERSON WESTERN BIRDS (p. 219)
VERIFIED DISCUSSION POINTS

This report was written from reports made during , after observation from memory - plus photo

Date and time report was written: 10 DEC 1997

Reporting observer: LARRY L. NORRIS

Signature: Larry L. Norris

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Return to:

Bill Prather

C.F.O. Official Records Committee

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