

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

8-12 Aug 01

2001-67

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X: ~~2000-005~~ 2001-005

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Magnificent Hummingbird (Scientific Name)Eugenes fulgens

Date(s) of occurrence:August 2, 2001

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: female Plumage: adult

Exact location: Fruitgrowers Reservoir on rustic trail near dam at south end of lake, but north from parking lot about ¼ mile.

County: Delta Nearest town: Orchard City Elevation: about 5000 ft

Length of observation: 5 minutes Time(s) of observation: about 3:00pm

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: none

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): none

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Excellent; clear, sunny with no wind

Optical equipment used: B&L Elite 10x40

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): closest was about 30 ft.

Was bird(s) photographed? no If so, have you submitted photos? N/A

Who took the photographs? N/A

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: In sage and low brush near trees near the lake.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): Bird was feeding near the tops of the low brush (about 4-5 ft). It would hover at one location for a short time and then move about 10-15 feet and repeat the process until it flew into the trees by the lake.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes): This was a very large hummingbird with slow wing beats. The bill was very long and about 1 and ¼ to 1 and ½ the depth of the head. The bill was black and slightly decurved. The back was dark green and the chest/belly was a mottled gray. The sides seemed to be lightly washed with greenish color. There was a very small white spot behind the eye and no other markings on the head except that the throat was lighter gray to whitish compared to the chest. The tail was dark green that faded to black near the tips. The outer two or three rectrices had very small white tips. These were very hard to see and took repeated views to confirm these markings.

Describe bird's call or song: Not heard

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: The blue-throated hummingbird is the only other likely hummingbird that is large with slow wingbeats. The blue-throated has distinctive white markings by the bill and behind the eye which this bird did not have. Also, belly of blue-throated is darker and more uniformly gray. Also, tail is black with much larger white tips to the outer feathers.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen both species many times in southeast Arizona.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): I consulted Sibley, Peterson and NGS after observing the bird. I was nearly certain that the bird was a female magnificent, because of the lack of the white head markings. Also, I knew that tails were different, but I didn't recall the details in the field.

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later X from memory

Date of written report: August 5, 2001

Reporting observer: James D. Beatty

Signature: 

Reporting Observer's Address: 165 Twelve Point Buck Trail

City: Durango

State:Colorado

Zip: 81301

Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
Tony Leukering
P.O. Box 157
Arvada, CO 80001