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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Report of Unusual Sight Record

Species: LAMPORNIS CLEMENCIAE (Blue-Throated Hummingbird)

Time/Date: About 1900 hrs June 29, 30, and 1830 hrs July 29, 1972 (Johnson)From 1230 hrs frequently until 1600 hrs 30 July 1972 (Bartols)1600 -1730 hrs 30 July 1972 (Lindts)From late afternoon until dark 31 Jul 72 (Johnson)1845 1 Aug 72 (Johnson/Bartols)1000 and 1200 hrs then intermittently until 1930 hrs 2 Aug 72(Johnson and Dr. Wilfred Powell and daughter Evelyn D.,
Box 2217, University Station, Enid, Oklahoma 737010900 hrs, 1200 hrs, 1830 hrs 3 Aug 72 (Bartols and Johnson)1930 hrs 3 Aug 72 (Johnson)1030 to 1230 hrs 4 Aug 72 (Bartols and Johnson. Several dozen
B&W as well as color photos taken by DAB. Also, DAB and
Johnson saw both adult and immature sitting alongside each other
on one of the several favorite perches. DAB unable to photo
both adult and immature at the same time. Additionally, Mrs.
Merlyn Heimbecker and daughter Carolyn, Rock Creek Park, Colorado,
saw adult and immature .

Location: Kitchen window feeder at the home of Miss Bernadina Johnson, Lytle Star Route, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903 and at kitchen windows of Mr. and Mrs. Merlyn Heimbecker, Box 123 Lytle Star Route, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Habitat: Foothills pine and scrub oak

Who first noted the bird? Miss Bernadina Johnson ^{HAB}

Others who confirmed identification: see above

Did you know it was unusual when you observed it? Yes

Did you have a good opportunity for observation (time, light, view, binoculars)?

Yes. For times and dates, see above. Birds were spooky but took much longer

most birds than do the Roadside Warblers or Allen's. None of the latter

three hummers could get near either of two feeders when the BT was about. No collisions observed but many near misses. Light during the day was about 3400 Kelvin. After 1600 color temperature faded swiftly. Views were from several inches to about 30 feet. Binoculars included one pr opera glasses, and one Bausch & Lomb 20-45K telescope. Also two pr Jason binoculars (7x50 and 7x35). Photo aids were Leica M3 with 135mm Elmarit and Nikon F with 300 mm Vivatar.

What experience have you had with species previously? None.

How did you identify the bird? Describe in detail what you saw and heard in the field.

Miss Johnson notified the Bartols of an unusual Hummer, possibly a Rivoli's, on 29 or 30 Jun 72. ESB and DAB visited the location perhaps 4 or 5 times during the first 3 weeks of July 72 without success. On 29 Jul 72 Miss Johnson advised the bird was back and ESB and DAB re-visited the location on 30 July 72 with optical and photo equipment.

After erecting tripods, cameras and accessories I closely studied nearby bushes and trees with 7x35 Jason binoculars while Mrs Bartol and Miss Johnson went to lunch inside the cabin. At about 1230 hrs 30 Jul 72 a large Hummer appeared in the glasses 20 feet away at one o'clock. Though it was motionless and in deep shade I clearly observed two white lines on the face, the Hummer bill and its large size. Frankly, I first thought it was a House Wren photographed earlier this year. The alerted ladies came to the window with 7x50 Jason and a pr of opera glasses. The bird moved out of the shade and onto a sunlit perch closer in where we studied it for some minutes with and without glasses for some minutes before zapping off.

I set up a motor driven camera with remote control and joined the ladies inside. They all ready had Peterson, Robbins and National Geographic narrative and pictures waiting. We discussed our assessments and concluded the bird was a Blue-Throated Hummer. During lunch the bird was seen again.

sunlit perch and I obtained a number of shots by remote control. B&W and color photos confirmed our assessment: Large size (at least 5"; long black tail tipped with white, double white lines on the face, unmottled gray throat, gray underparts, and its fiesty behaviour (Rufous didn't have a chance at either of two feeders when BT was near), and its preference for small flying insects instead of the hummer feeder. It took much time to obtain size reference photos at the feeder. I do not recall specifically any squeaks or calls but this bird is fast and when zapped you know it.

What similar Species might it have been? How were these eliminated?

Rivoli's. About as large as the Blue-Throated but does not have the double white lines on the face nor the white tipped blackish tail

Lucifer. Too small, decurved bill, buff throat.

Note: ESB and DAB spent 7 months last year tabulating about 400,000 birds of 297 species reported by AIKEN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY during the period 1956-1971. The Blue-Throated Hummingbird was not among them. The observed area only concerns about 40 miles radius from Pike's Peak. Since the Blue-Throated Hummer's northernmost range reportedly is about S. Arizona, this sighting may be of some interest.


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P.S. If "Gildy" only knew...

Lampornis clemenciae - - - - BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed the documentation along with numerous black and white photographs of the Blue-throated Hummingbird reported from the Colorado Springs area during the summer months of 1972. Based primarily on an examination of these photographs taken and submitted by Mr. Dominic A. Bartol, Jr. of 2718 North Prospect, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907, the Committee has ruled to accept this species (a female) as the first authentic record of the Blue-throated Hummingbird occurring in Colorado and has approved its addition to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado.

According to information received from Mr. Bartol, "an unusual Hummer, possibly a Rivoli's (Hummingbird)" was observed about 7:00 P.M. on June 29, 1972, by Miss Bernhardina Johnson at her kitchen window feeder, Lytle-Star Route, Colorado Springs. The same bird (evidently) was seen again by Miss Johnson on the following evening, June 30, about 7:00 P.M. Mr. and Mrs. Bartol unsuccessfully attempted to observe the bird during the ensuing three weeks. Then, about 6:30 P.M. on July 29, 1972, the bird reappeared at Miss Johnson's feeder and she notified the Bartol's immediately. Mr. and Mrs. Bartol managed to observe the bird (a female) on the afternoon of July 30 when Mr. Bartol was able to obtain a number of excellent black and white and color photographs. Several other observers reportedly were able to view this bird as follows;

July 30, - 4:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. (Lindts)

July 31 - From late afternoon until dark (Johnson)

August 1 - 6:45 P.M. (Johnson/Bartols)

August 2 - 10:00 A.M. and again at 12:00 Noon, then intermittently until 7:30 P.M. (Johnson and Dr. Wilfred Powell and daughter Evelyn D. Powell, Box 2217, University Station, Enid, Oklahoma 73701)

August 3 - 9:00 A.M., 12:00 Noon and 6:30 P.M. (Johnson/Bartols); and at 7:30 P.M. (Johnson)

August 4 - 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. (Johnson/Bartols) NOTE: On this date Mr. Bartol reports, "Several dozen black and white photos as well as color photos taken by DAB. Also, DAB and Johnson saw both adult and immature sitting alongside each other on one of the several favorite perches. DAB unable to photo both adult and immature at the same time". Mr. Bartol further reports, "additionally, Mrs. Merlyn Heinbecker and daughter Carlyn, Rock Creek Park, Colorado saw adult and immature".

It is unclear from Mr. Bartol's report whether Miss Johnson and the Heinbecker's are neighbors and possibly could have seen the same bird. Furthermore, since no details regarding the alleged sighting of an immature were provided, the Official Records Committee could not accept this report. One Official Records Committee Member, Dr. Paul Julian of Boulder did question one or two of Mr. Bartol's photographs suggesting that possibly the bird pictured might have been an immature since the photograph did not reveal the white-tipped rectrices. However, Dr. Julian quickly points out that Bent says the white-tipped rectrices are present in birds of all ages and thus dismisses the probability of an immature unless more specific detail is furnished.

November 26, 1972

Jack Geddall

CHAIRMAN

CFO Official Records Committee