

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD REPORT  
 RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD  NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORG FILE NO. 31-77-61

ACCEPTED  REJECTED

(A)

Species: Blue-throated Hummingbird

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): July 30, 1977 Time Bird Seen: Noon to  
 Locality: 3 miles West of Ridgway at Decker Ranch  
 Nearest Town: Ridgway County: Ouray

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: ~~7x35 binoculars~~ none

If photographed, type of equipment used: //

Light Conditions: bright shade

Distance from bird (how measured): 5 feet

Number of Birds Seen: one Sex: female Plumage: adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

four of us

Bird attended feeder for about 15 seconds as we/stood and talked.  
 It did not perch.

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

We first noticed this bird by its size, larger than the Rufous, Broad-tailed, and Black-chinned which we had been observing at close range during the week.

This bird had a grayish-white breast and belly, with no rufous color. The throat also was grayish-white, with no speckles or streaks of any kind, unlike those on female and immature Broad-tails and Rufous Hummingbirds. It had a grayish-green back, I believe; however it faced us during the entire time of observation so that we really did not examine the back.

The bird had a black eye stripe, with a white stripe over the eye. The long dark beak, basically straight, seemed longer in proportion than the bills on the other hummingbirds; this characteristic may have been accented because the black eye line looked almost like a continuation of the bill.

The most notable characteristic was the black tail, conspicuous black tail, with white tips on the tail feathers.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

The bird had a quiet flight, and made no sound.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Feeder at a ranch house. Habitat around the ranch house is pasture with willow-lined irrigation ditches; also a dry hillside with junipers; as well as a few ranch outbuildings.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

All hummingbirds but Rivoli's by size, eye striping, and lack of rufous or any spotting on throat and breast.

Rivoli's by black tail and conspicuous white tail feather tips.

and size of the Blue-throated  
Hybrids--this seemed to match the proper plumage/close enough to  
foreclose its being a hybrid

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

We spent the week looking at Rufous, Broad-tailed, and Black chinned (and, briefly a Calliope), which I have also ~~seen~~ known for several years.

We have seen both big hummingbirds in Arizona.

We have also seen a handful of likely hybrids.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds of North America, to confirm marks to separate Blue-throated and Rivoli's.

This report was written from notes made during        after xx observation; from memory         
Urling Kingery

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