

APPENDIX II

31-91-40

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Blue-throated Hummingbird; Lampornis clamencias
(Vernacular name) (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.

Dates (s): 1 September 1991 Time Bird Seen: 1:35 pm to 1:50 pm.

Locality: Rip Stransky's House; Co Rd 219 / Hwy 550
~5 miles SE of Durango, Colorado.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Bausch & Lomb Elite 10x42 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

Number of birds seen: one Sex: female Plumage: probably 1st year

Light conditions: Bright sun; also in shade at feeder.

Distance from bird, and how measured: 2-12' at feeder; ~20' while perched in tree.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Rapid flight; swooping in around side of house with fanned tail. Hovered at feeder and twice perched on feeder, sipping nectar. Perched still on a twig in a tree for about 5 min. Held her own vs. Rufous Hummers. Wagged long tail at feeder.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
Hummingbird feeders at house in piñon-juniper woodland up on edge of rocky mesa above Durango.

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

Joe Roller, Joe Himmel, Rip Stransky, Bob Andrews,
Peter Grant, Linda Vidal, Mike Carter

APPENDIX 1I Continued

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. Large, but not huge, hummingbird about 4 1/2" long (1/2" longer than Broad-tailed & ~1" longer than Rufous). Body appears slender & larger than Broad-tailed Hummer, but with noticeably longer tail, long saber-shaped wings, and long down-curved bill. Uppersides uniform deep green. Rump & upper surface of tail deep green with tail nearly blackish in the center. Outer tail feathers showed narrow whitetips at sides when seen from top; underside of tail blackish except for large white terminal spots (nearly 1/2 of length on outer feathers. Wing (folded) very long, nearly to tail tip & curved. 1st primary longest. Under sides dirty white, whiter on unmarked undertail coverts. Flanks with faint green wash, seen in flight. Throat is overlaid with obscure rows of tiny gray dots. Face is dirty gray.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc. with green crown & gray auricular patch separated by an obscure, pale, whitish post-ocular eye line curving back behind eye & then downward. Gray auricular patch is bordered below by an obscure white whisker mark. Made no vocalizations but produced a dull "whirr" in flight.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:
Large size, long tail, long down-curved bill eliminate all other N. American hummers except Magnificent. Plain-capped Starthroat has white rump patch. Magnificent is even larger, with darker undertail coverts, less clearly marked face lacking white whisker mark and has much more restricted white tail spots.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen many Magnificent Hummingbirds, Plain-c. Starthroat and Blue-throated Hummingbird, including ♂ & ♀ Blue-throated Hummers in July in Big Bend Natl Park

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☐ observation; from memory ☐.

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Signature: Munifan

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
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City Park
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