

2003-64

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Accepted

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

rec'd 8/12/03

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #: 2003-64

RESULTS: A

Species: (Common Name) Costa's Hummingbird

(Scientific Name) Calypte costae

Date(s) of occurrence: August 4, 2003

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: Male

Plumage: Juvenile HY

Exact location: Pingree Park, CSU field campus (about 15-20 south of Highway 14 on 63E road, which I believe is also called the Pingree Park road)

County: Larimer

Nearest town: Rustic

Elevation: 9,000' exactly

Length of observation: about 20 minutes in hand + holding bag

Time(s) of observation: 1950 - 2010

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: 7 seminar participants

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): None

Light conditions (quality, direction relative to bird(s) and observers position):

Sunlight fading as sun set, supplemented with several battery powered hand- or head-lamps.

Optical equipment used: 10x hand lens

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): In hand.

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? yes

If so, are you submitting photos? Yes, via email.

Who took the photograph(s)? A seminar participant, Carol English.

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred:

General : This area was burned 9 years ago and is nice regrowth of aspen and lodgepole pine. There are also open natural meadows and intact stands of mature pine, spruce, and aspen. There is a creek flowing through the center of the meadow which is bordered with a typical riparian area of willows, etc. Specific : The bird was feeding at a hummingbird feeder inside of a cage-type trap.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Nothing specific here, this bird was identified in hand while banding.



DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report.

General measurements and description:

Mass 3.2 grams

Size : Bird obviously small, like a calliope.

Age = HY : Culmen had faint wrinkles along whole length

Head and Gorget:

3 true purple feathers on top of head

20 true purple feathers in central gorget cluster (see photos)

Cheek color greyish (NOT buffy or creamy)

White "collar" wraps from below gorget to behind eye (see photos)

Bill apparently slightly curved

Exposed culmen 17.5 mm

Wing:

Wing chord 42.2 mm

When folded, wings were exactly as long as the tail

Wing tip swept in a curve, but not (to my eye) as dramatic as that of a BCHU.

Tail:

Tail length R1 (multiple measurements averaged) 20 mm

R1 feathers dull - greyish green.

White tips only on R5 and R4 feathers

Black of feather rib extends into white tip of R5 (see photos) (This means it was a MALE HY)

Outer tail feathers had a distinct curve (not straight)

R5 3.5mm wide at widest part of tip.

No rufous in tail.

Tail had the same blunt, short appearance of that of a calliope.

Tail fork -2 mm. (When folded, R5 is shorter than R1 by 2 mm)

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Not noted.

SIMILAR SPECIES – This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration:

See the description of the bird above. I used Sheri Williamson's Hummingbirds of North America as one major source and Peter Pyle's Identification guide to North American Birds as another guide. In addition, I emailed the information and photos to Sheri Williamson who verified the identification. She frequently handles Costa's. These two books both list many identifying features and measurements for this bird, as well as ways to separate it from similar species. One similar species is our local Calliope hummingbird : three of the most obvious critical differences between this bird and the Calliope : 1) These gorget feathers were true purple, not reddish purple. 2) This bird also had colored purple feathers on the top of its head. 3) This bird had no rufous in the tail.

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

15 years of banding hummingbirds (BTLH, RUHU, CAHU and BCHU). I didn't have any experience with this species in hand, so I was exceedingly careful with the identification. I also had Sheri Williamson verify my ID.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):

See those listed in "Similar Species."

This report was made from (check one) 1 notes made during observation 1 notes made after observation later from memory. The notes after observation were my own summaries, not new observations.

Date and time of written report: August 11, 2003 7:49 pm

Reporting observer: Brenda Wiard

Licensed Master Bander : Federal Permit #22883

Brenda@woodenski.com (719)539-6687

Reporting observer's address: 146 West 6th St.

City: Salida

Signature:

Brenda Wiard

State: CO

Zip: 81201

FW ForwardofCosta'sPic84

From: Chris Wood [zeledonia@cfo-link.org]
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2003 11:28 AM
To: 'Tony Leukering'
Subject: FW: Forward/of/Costa's/Pic/8/4

I got this from Tina. I don't have time to write to her right now, but thought you would be interested in the story and photo.

CLW

Christopher L. Wood
zeledonia@cfo-link.org
Niwot, Colorado

-----Original Message-----

From: TJCALLOPE@aol.com [mailto:TJCALLOPE@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2003 10:47 PM
To: zeledonia@cfo-link.org
Subject: Forward/of/Costa's/Pic/8/4

Hi Chris,

You may already have the photo that I am sending you. I'm trying to get some more photos from the lady who took this one. I took some shots, [slides], but could not get any light on the bird, since the lady who took this shot, was blocking me from the light. We will see how they come out & if 1 is any good, and if I think you might want it, what's the process for sending, [I guess a print], to you via email? The following shot, taken by Carol English, was taken , 8/4/2003, about 7pm. All this happened in a class taught by Brenda Wiard, on " Hummingbird Behavior & Banding Techniques". When Brenda first looked at the bird, she said, "wow, I think we have a Black-chinned. I was right next to her, and I was thinking this bird is way too small and short tailed to be a Black-chinned. I said what about Black-chinned, Costa's hybrid. She then said no way. I latter said what about Costa's, [seeing quite a few in Arizona]. She pounced on me, saying this bird has never been seen in Co. I said, yes it has, twice as a matter of fact. Twice if Chris Wood's photo is accepted by the Co Records. Well, it became obvious to me, and another lady in the class, named, Lynne Miller, that Brenda was very good at identifying Broad-tailed & Rufous in the hand, but that she did not have experience with most other hummers, which she admitted to, the next day. Lynne & I kept saying "why are we taking this class?" We are not learning very much new stuff. I asked Brenda if she had heard of Steve Howell's book, which she had not. So, I gave her my copy that night to look over, although I think Sheri's book is better for in-hand I.D. I wanted to [post it on cobirds, stating the bird was not seen the next day, & Brenda said she wanted Sheri W. to look at the photos first, and that she would

FW ForwardofCosta'sPic84

get back to me. She did get back to me the other day, with a confirmation that Sheri said the pictures were that of a 1st year Costa's. Lynne & I went to bed that night of the class saying, I really think that bird is a Costa's. So the class was worth it for me, since I got to see that bird, and since I basically learned that F. Rufous, verse 1st yr. M. rufous are extremely hard to call out a lot of the times. That's why I took the class, so I could learn more about I.D. of certain age rufous. Well, I still think they are confusing. I am in no way putting Brenda down, since she is tops at I.D on BRTA & Rufous in the hand. I was just disappointed that she was not open to the Costa's being a possible Costa's. She is getting out of the field of banding hummers. Wonder why, right? There is so much money to be made. If you need more info from me on this bird feel free to ask. I still might post it, stating the circumstances why it was not posted earlier.

For all I know you may have left for Alaska. I'm trying to get out of town myself. If you are in town still, would you be at home the night of 8/14th, so I could ask you some questions about Alberta. And, where would you go in Alaska, if you could not get to St. Lawrence or Adak to hopefully see maybe some rare shorebirds. Do you know a contact for this question also? Back to Alberta. In a week and a half, would it be too late to see the Timberline Brewer's. If so, I'd still like to know for next yr. where you saw the bird. You can tell, I'm really leaving this departure up in the air. Also, would you know of a contact for Dutch Harbor, for birding. I've got West's book. O.K, now I am going to have to pay you for your services.

I have not forgotten Grand Co. and new places to go. I've quite a few for you, but would rather do it via the phone, since my fingers are started to hurt about 10 minutes ago. Yup, the MS.

Well, I know you are busy, and I envy you for going to Adak. As I said on your phone machine, you might meet a guy from Choteau, Mt. He has been volunteering out there for several years, getting his list up there. Real nice guy. I talked to him in Mt. about the yr. 2000, when I was up there, for 2 years, on & off. I forgot his name. But if you meet him, tell him the lady from Littleton, Co. who talked to him about 3 years ago, {when visiting Mt}, say's HI! He was going to take me to Freezeout Lake in the fall, but my plans changed and I could not meet up with him. Super nice guy, & yes I miss Mt. terribly.

Well now that you have gotten a manuscript, I'm checking out. If you are there Thursday night & free to talk, let me know. I appreciate it. If not have fun in Adak. I think a lot more folks are going to attempt that maneuver. I know Norm Erthal was thinking of it. Maybe you are both going together?

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