

# Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(this is a two page report-click at the bottom for page 2)

rec'd 6/6/02

CBRC FILE #:

2002-63

RESULTS:

A

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific names):

Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

Date(s) of Observation:

May 13, 2002

Number of birds seen:

1

Sex: unknown

Plumage: adult

Exact location:

Pueblo City Park - Frisbee Golf course - along stream near stone bridge

County: Pueblo

Nearest town: Pueblo

Elevation: 4900

Length of observation:

10 to 15 minutes

Time(s) of observation:

11:15 A.M.

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

I was alone

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Dave Johnson on 5/12/02 at same place

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observer(s) position):

Sun directly overhead. Bird was in and out of shadows in trees

Optical equipment used:

Swift Audubon 8.5x44 ED

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

10 ft to 10 yds

Was (were) bird(s) photographed?

No

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

N.A.

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

Urban park - overgrown stream habitat - Willows (large) Cottonwoods (large)  
Juniper + pinyon + some siberian elm where the bird was spotted

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits:

large slender bird with long tail flew up from a streamside into a willow tree - by shape & flight I immediately knew it was a cuckoo.



2002-63

# Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

page 2

**DESCRIPTION** -- This is the **most important** part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings - folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes.

when the bird flew up from the ground I first noticed the long brown tail + slender wings. I did not observe any tail spots (from behind) or any rufous in the wings. It landed in a willow. I could see its bill was all dark at that time I could not see its eye. The tail was all brown (from behind - I did not get a view under its tail at all). I had a good view of the folded wings and could not see any rufous at all. The bird flew into a juniper and I got a very long look at the <sup>slightly curved</sup> all black bill and the red orbital ring which then confirmed I was looking at my first Colorado Black-billed cuckoo.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:

No call or song heard

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

Dave Johnson saw the bird the day before + saw the all black slightly curved bill but not the red orbital ring. Did he get a good look at the brown wings. He could not eliminate juvenile Yellow-billed although a juvenile at that time of year would be unlikely. I got a good look at the all brown wings and the red orbital ring which eliminates yellow-billed cuckoo (and mangrove cuckoo). Although I did not get a look at the small white tail tips - that feature was unnecessary for confirmation after seeing the red orbital ring. What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen many Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Colorado + Black-billed Cuckoos in Minnesota. List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

This report is from notes made from (check one) ☐ noted made during observation ☐ noted made after observation ☒ later from memory.

Date and time of written report:

5/30/02

Reporting observer: Mark Yeager

Signature: 

Address: 221 S. Union Ave  
Pueblo, CO 81003

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee, Tony Leukering, PO Box 660, Brighton,  
<http://www.cfo-link.org/reportform2.html>

05/30/2002