

rec'd 8/19/04

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

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

2004-42

7-0 (A)

**Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**

CBRC FILE #:

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Black-billed Cuckoo (Scientific Name) *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

Date(s) of occurrence: May 7, 2004

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: NA

Exact location: Lake Hasty Campground (near east end)

County: Bent Nearest town: Hasty Elevation:

Length of observation: 15 seconds Time(s) of observation: mid-day

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Joey Kellner, Ric Olsen

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

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: mostly sunny, bird was under tree canopy of campground

Optical equipment used: Nikon Venturer 8 x 32

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 15 feet

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? no If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: mature deciduous trees, close together, forming a canopy in much of the several acre campground. Surrounded by grasslands and high desert plant life, with nearby reservoir.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Bird was still during observation. The bird flew while I was radioing others. Bird perched in a different tree out of my view, but was seen by other observers mentioned.

**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.The bird was obviously a cuckoo, based on its shape, size, bill size and overall coloration. The bird was long and slender, approximately 12 inches, with approximately 1/3 of his length being tail. The bill approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, was dark, with a curved upper mandible, and slightly curved lower mandible. The bill was similar in shape and size of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The lower mandible was closely examined, and was dark, with no yellow or paleness. The throat and underparts were white or whiteish. There were no markings in any of the white underparts. The head color was dark, along with what I could see of the remaining the upperparts, appearing greenish gray including the wing color. There was no noticeable rufous seen in the folded wing, or during flight. The dark head color came to just below the eye and was sharply delineated from the white below the eye. The bird had a noticeable, bold red eye-ring. I did not notice the undertail color or pattern before the bird flew.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: did not call or sing

**SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report.** Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: The completely dark mandible and red eye ring eliminate other cuckoo species.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen this bird in Texas once before, and have heard it in Pennsylvania. This was my first encounter with this species in Colorado.

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

This report was made from (check one)  notes made during observation  notes made after observation  later from memory.

Date and time of written report: August 16, 2004

Reporting observer: Glenn Walbek

Signature:

*Glenn Walbek*

Reporting observer's address: 2908 Cliff View Court

City: Castle Rock

State: CO

Zip: 80108

Send report to:

Colorado Bird Records Committee

Tony Leukering

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