

2006-52 (RFB)

Species: Rivoli's Hummingbird
(Vernacular name)

Eugenes fulgens
(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.

Date (s): July 8, 1978 Time Bird Seen: 7:20 AM to 7:25 A.M.

Locality: 0.5 mile south of Lytle Ranch, Beaver Dam Wash, Washington Co, UT.
Ut. St. George, Washington Co., UT.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7 x 35 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: female Plumage: female adult

Light conditions: clear sky, sun behind observers

Distance from bird, and how measured: 20 feet estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Bird was first observed flying along the lower edge of a 40 foot cottonwood, apparently looking for insects. The bird then flew slowly toward the top of the tree and disappeared into the upper foliage.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
Cottonwoods, willows, tamarisk

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
Rod Lemon, Utah State Univ., Logan, Utah

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.

Length was about 5 inches. Upper parts were green, wings were brownish, tail was green with white tips on the outer feathers. Underparts were white. Bill was long and slender and dark. There was a small white patch in back of the eye.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

not heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Black-chinned hummingbird is much smaller in size. Many black-chins were feeding in the cottonwood tree where the rivoli was observed, so direct size comparison was made.

Blue-throated hummingbird has black tail with white tip.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have observed rivoli's and blue-throated hummingbirds many times in SE Arizona. Black-chins are abundant in Utah.

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

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Signature: Steven P. Hedges

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