

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**  
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

2004-42  
[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: **One**

Sex:

Plumage:

Exact location: **Hasty Campground**

County: **Bent**

Nearest town: **Hasty**

Elevation: ?

Length of observation: **2 to 3 minutes**

Time(s) of observation: **around 1:30 p.m.**

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **Glenn Walbek, Joey Kellner**

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): **Above**

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: **sunny, temp. in the upper 80's, wind from the west southwest at 15 mph. The bird was seen at various angles in the trees and flying.**

Optical equipment used: **Brunton 7x42**

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): **closest view was at ~30 feet above the observers.**

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: **maintained riparian campground.**

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: **The bird was observed flying from tree to tree.**

**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.

**The bird was first seen perched in a tree near the trunk and was an obvious member of the cuckoo family, genus Coccyzus. The bird was a unmarked grayish brown from head to tail from the back side. The all dark bill was slightly decurved and pointed. The face was grayish brown above the eye and off white below the eye. A bright red orbital ring surrounded the black eye, slightly thicker above and behind the eye. In flight, the bird was long tailed and pointy winged. From below the tail appeared darker than the rest of the bird, which was off white in appearance and the wings lacked any rufous in the primaries. The underside of the tail was never seen well, the bird was always perched facing away from me. Leg color was also not seen.**

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: **None heard.**

**SIMILAR SPECIES** -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: **Red orbital eye ring and lack of rufous in the primaries eliminates Yellow-billed Cuckoo. All black bill, red orbital eye ring and lack of a face mask eliminate the highly unlikely Mangrove Cuckoo.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **I've seen numbers of BbCu in Minnesota.**

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **Sibley Guide to Birds, 2000**

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

Date and time of written report: **May 9, 2004**

Reporting observer: **Ric Olson**

Signature:

Reporting observer's address: **9450 N. Heather Dr., Castle Rock, 80108**

City:

State:

Zip:

**Send report to:  
Colorado Bird Records Committee  
Tony Leukering  
PO Box 660  
Brighton, CO 80601**