

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

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

2004-46

CBRC FILE #:

A

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

(Scientific Name)

Archilochus colubris

Date(s) of occurrence:

9-18 and 19, 2004

Number of birds seen:

One

Sex:

Male

Plumage:

First fall

Exact location:

8230 Mule Deer Dr., 20 mi. s. and 5 mi. e. of Pueblo

County:

Pueblo

Nearest town:

Colorado City

Elevation:

5,700'

Length of observation:

15 minutes on 9-18, total of 25 min. on 9-19

Time(s) of observation:

3:40 p.m. on 9-18; between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on 9-19

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: None

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

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

Sunny, no haze, 20% cloudy, terrible winds (Beaumont 5 or better) on 9-18. At 3:40 p.m. the sun was shining from the southwest into our courtyard, illuminating the area and whichever side of the bird faced the sun at a particular time. I was sitting on the porch in the shade directly south of the courtyard. On 9-19, sunny, clear, and no wind. The sun was shining from the east into the courtyard, illuminating the west side of the courtyard at first, then progressing until the whole courtyard was in sun. I was again on the porch in shade.

Optical equipment used:

Swarovski SLC 10x42 WB Binocs

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

Between 8 and 15 feet, measured by stepping off.

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:

Courtyard of our home, with a 6' wall connecting both wings of our home and enclosing the courtyard.

Courtyard is planted with various perennials, shrubs, trees, and Blue Grama grass.

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

The bird rarely flicked or pumped its tail while feeding and flying, but did hold its tail partially flared about half of the time. It did not visit the hummer feeders, but worked the Agastache "Firebird," the Stachys coccinea "Hot Spot Coral," and the Centranthus ruber (briefly).

**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 bill was dark, straight-ish with perhaps a wee bit of decurvature, much shorter than the BCHUs nearby, and looked about the same length as the head from nares to nape.

The plumage was all fresh; upperparts, including forehead, crown, nape, mantle and rump were a bright, golden-green, and narrow, buffy feather tips were easily seen.

The wing was seen well at 9' as the bird perched time and again on a twig of *Forestiera neomexicana*. Inner primaries were a tad narrower than outer primaries, tapered, and did have shallow notches on the inner webs; P10 was narrower than other and much more tapered than the BCHUs. The wing overall looked narrower, and near the tips of the primaries looked straighter than BCHU, as well, but that could have been my perspective. Wing tips fell well short of tail tip, about twice the distance as in BCHU ad. female, making the bird look very long-tailed.

Outer rectrices were fresh, a dusky brownish, with no rufous; R1 and 2 were a golden-green; a dark subterminal band could barely be seen when the bird flared its tail; R5 was narrower than the others, and pointed (no nipple), softly rounded at the tip; R5 had a somewhat "diamond-shaped" white tip, R4 had same design and about half the white, and R3 had only a small white tip mostly on the inner web. Tail was moderately notched and long. The notch was very noticeable.

The face had dark lores and a small, white post-ocular spot; a dark grayish auricular patch was distinctive, contrasting with forehead/crown/nape feathers, white throat, and white forecollar. Gorget area had a white background with distinct, heavy, dusky spotting in fairly even rows from the lower edge of the gorget area clear up under the chin, and from auricular patch to auricular patch; two reddish-rose feathers were on the left side of the lower edge of the gorget, and a splotch of 3 reddish-rose feathers were in the middle of the lower edge. The color was not the rosy color I'd expect on a Broad-tailed nor the pink on an Anna's. The lower edge of the gorget looked straight (not concave).

The breast and belly were whitish with a pale uneven wash of gray. The sides and flanks were lightly washed with a buff or very light cinnamon; the undertail coverts were whitish with no color.

Feet were dark. There was no molt going on.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: While feeding, it made a tee-tee-tee sound, and sitting, perched, it would softly call chew-chew. When the BCHUs flew near, it would chatter similar to the BCHUs. Flight sound was a soft hum.



**SIMILAR SPECIES – This is another critical part of your report.** Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Black-chinned imm. male: This bird did not have a dull forehead/crown or the heavier wash of gray on its sides and flanks or wide, blunt outer primaries; nor square, double-rounded or slightly notched tail. Upperparts were not the dull bronzy-green of BCHU, and facial markings were darker and more distinctive/contrasty. Bird rarely pumped/wagged its tail, nor did it have a black terminal band. Flight sound was not burry/buzzy as BCHU.

Anna's imm. male: This bird was not big-headed and stocky, nor did it have heavy, mottled green on its sides, nor broad, rounded outer rectrices banded in gray-green, then dark gray to dull black, then white, with the black shaft on R5 extending into the white tip. Bird did not have inner primaries equal in width to outer primaries, nor was there any sign of molt. Anna's also has a distinctive call.

Costa's imm. male: This bird did not have the shorter, rounded tail, nor inner primaries of equal width, nor was there any sign of molt. This bird did have more contrast between face and throat, and did not have dingy upperparts. Also, no pale gray post-ocular stripe. The bird had a more heavily spotted throat with reddish-rose, not purple. Costa's also has a distinctive call..

Rufous, Allen's, Calliope, Broad-tailed imm. males: This bird was too "green and whitish-gray." It had no extensive rufous in the tail, as seen in Rufous and Allen's; nor the rufous with black, as seen in Broad-tailed; nor the very short tail banded dull green and black as seen in Calliope.

Rufous and Allen's are slightly smaller, with proportionally shorter bill and tail; underparts more intensely washed with rufous.

Calliope is smaller yet with very short bill and tail; wingtips extend to tail tip or slightly beyond, and outer primaries are broad, curved, and blunt-tipped. Calliope also has a different chip note and flight sound.

Broad-tailed is slightly larger and stockier, greener on upperparts; primaries are broader; sides washed green or rufous and green, and undertail coverts washed cinnamon at base; broad tail with rufous at base; face dull olive-gray with slightly darker cheek, and throat distinctly mottled with bronzy/dusky spots with a few rosy spots. BTLH also has a different chip note and flight sound.

Female Broad-billed: This bird had no red on mandible, reddish-rose spots on throat; more contrasty facial and throat pattern; wing size and pattern wrong; wing tip to tail tip distance too long. Broad-billed also wags tail a lot.

Imm. Male/Female Magnificent: Much larger than Ruby-throated, wing to tail distance wrong, scaly appearance wrong; wing shape and head shape wrong.

(Some of the wording above taken directly from Howell and/or Williamson books.)

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Have seen numerous Ruby-throated back east and several in Colorado. Grew up with Rufous, Calliope and Broad-tailed, and have lived with same most of my life. Have lived with Black-chinned for 5 years. Have seen numerous Anna's in AZ and the adult female at Tina Jones' house, relatively little experience with Costa's (a few birds in MX, AZ). Have seen numerous Broad-billed and Magnificent in MX, AZ, and the adult female Mag. in Mesa Co., CO.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): Hummingbirds of N.A., by Howell, Peterson's Hummingbirds of N.A., by Williamson

This report was made from (check one) ☐ notes made during observation on 9-19 and notes made after observation on 9-18.

Date and time of written report: October 4, 2004 2:30 p.m.

Reporting observer: BB Hahn

Signature:

Reporting observer's address: 8230 Mule Deer Drive

City: Pueblo

State: CO

Zip: 81004

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