

Amazilia species

3 Sep 1998

Des Moines, Polk Co., IA

Thomas H. Kent, Carole Stolz

P-0598, P-0609, IBL 69:36, Stolz 1999

Record Number: 98-31

Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATIONS

Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246

Carole Stolz (letters), 512 SW 60th, Des Moines 50312

[2/28/99]

PHOTOGRAPHS

T. H. Kent, 11 Sep, P-0598

Donald Stolz, 12 Sep, P-0609

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 69:36

Records Committee: IBL 69:90

Stolz, C., J. Clark, T. H. Kent, and A. Johnson. 1999.

Amazilia Hummingbird in Des Moines. Iowa Bird Life 69:74-75.

VOTE: 7 NA

NA, Correctly identified escapee.

NA, Lacking other resources, I'll accept the experts' opinions that the bird was an Amazilia Hummingbird. It seems very likely that the bird escaped from captivity.

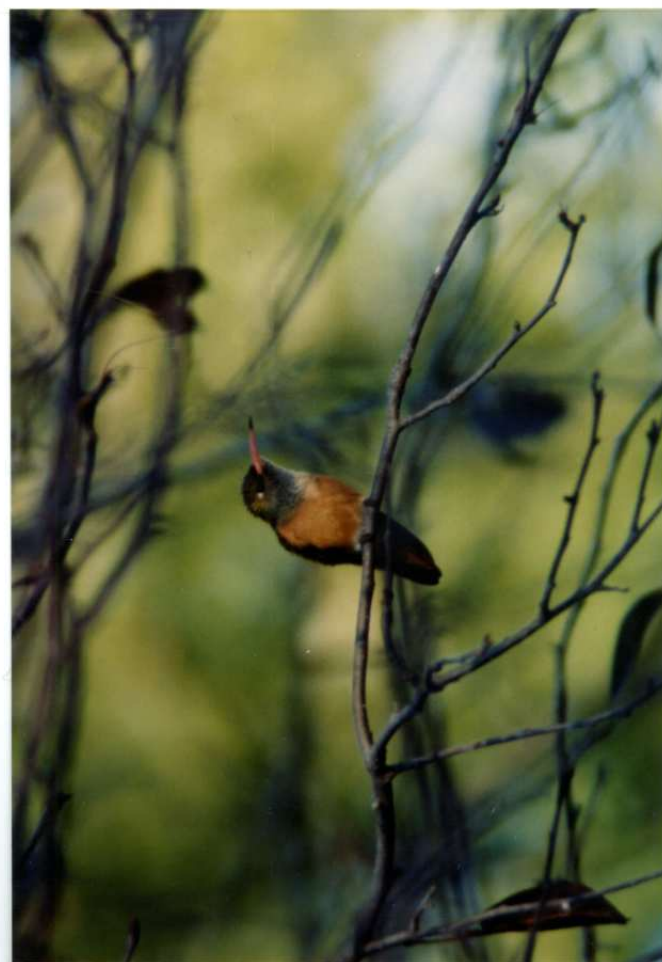
NA, The identification appears correct, but the origin is questionable.

NA, This bird created some interesting days for Iowa birders. It is most certainly *Amazilia amazilia* (male, northern sub-species per Van Remsen)-origin unknown. Two birders (Schantz and Stilwell) independently related seeing *Amazilia* sp. at the Des Moines Botanical Center and Schantz mentioned another South American species as well. Although it cannot be proven, I suspect that this bird did indeed escape from the Des Moines Botanical Center since the opportunity certainly presented itself on many occasions. However, with no records of the exact birds kept in captivity at the Botanical Center, this is at best informed speculation. With fairly recent reports of Yellow Grosbeak and Bridled Titmouse, one must wonder about the traffic through Iowa.

NA, Undetermined "non-wild" origin.

NA, Clearly an escapee. ID seems definite.

NA, I accept the identification as *Amazilia a. amazilia* per Louis Bevier. I believe there is a good circumstantial case for escape from the Botanical Center, especially if it is shown that the Arizona mystery hummer was indeed a faked report.



Amazilia species 0598  
Des Moines, Polk Co., IA  
11 Sep 1995 T. H. Kent 98-31

< >  
71-02 SFBNN+09RU 9683

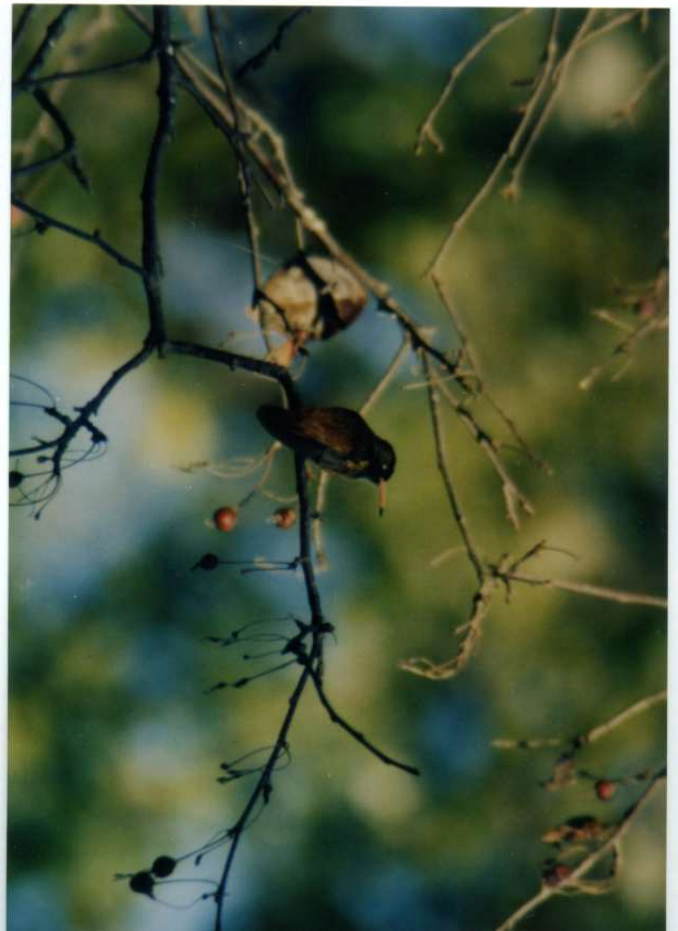
Amazilia species 0598  
Des Moines, Polk Co., IA  
11 Sep 1995 T. H. Kent 98-31

< >  
71-02 7FBNN+03RU 9709

Amazilia species 0598  
Des Moines, Polk Co., IA  
11 Sep 1995 T. H. Kent 98-31

< >  
71-02 SFBNN+08RU 9683

Tricolor  
Crystal  
Arc



< > 71-02 7FBNN+06AU 9683

Amazilia species  
Des Moines, Polk Co., IA  
11 Sep 1995 T. H. Kent 98-31  
0598

< > 71-01 8FBNN+06AU 9683

Amazilia species  
Des Moines, Polk Co., IA  
11 Sep 1995 T. H. Kent 98-31  
0598

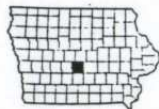
< > 71-01 8FBNN+08AU 9683

Amazilia species  
Des Moines, Polk Co., IA  
11 Sep 1995 T. H. Kent 98-31  
0598

### AMAZILIA HUMMINGBIRD IN DES MOINES

CAROLE STOLZ, JANE CLARK, THOMAS H. KENT, AND ANN JOHNSON

On or about 2 September 1998, Don Stolz saw an unusual bird at the hummingbird feeder near his house in Des Moines. It was unlike any other bird that he had seen before. He and Carole Stolz studied the bird carefully and, based on its long, thin bill and overall coloration, decided that it was a Buff-bellied Hummingbird. The bird spent most of its time in their yard, perching in a tree between visits to the hummingbird feeder. After about 10 days, they called Jane Clark of the Des Moines Audubon Society to tell her about this unusual sighting. Jane requested permission to notify other birders about this sighting, and Don and Carole Stolz agreed. Jane then reported the sighting to Eugene and Eloise Armstrong and Pam and Reid Allen. Over the next several weeks, about 150 birders visited the Stolz's yard to see this hummingbird. Included were a number of people who were in Des Moines on 11-13 September for the fall Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting.



During the fall Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting, a number of people noticed that although the bird seemed to resemble a Buff-bellied Hummingbird, there were a few characteristics that didn't quite match that species. In particular, the bird had a white spot behind the eye, the cinnamon on the belly was brighter and extended farther up the breast than on Buff-bellied Hummingbird, the tail, back, and rump were rufous, and there was a distinct central white patch between the breast and throat. At the I.O.U. meeting and later, there was extensive discussion about the identification of this bird as various people searched numerous field guides and other sources to see if there was another species that better fit the description of the bird. In addition, several photographs of this bird were posted on the Internet so that other bird experts around the country could examine it and add their opinion. This attention soon focused on the *Amazilia Hummingbird*, a species found in western South America. Part of this was prompted by a photo in *Field Notes* (52:144, 1998) of a bird seen in Madera Canyon, Arizona, on 1 September 1997. That bird seemed to match our bird and had caused a similar round of inquiries in 1997. That bird was eventually identified as an *Amazilia Hummingbird* but it has been suggested that the location was a hoax.

Experts Louis Bevier (Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia) and Van Remsen (Louisiana State University) examined the photos and considered the bird to be of the nominate subspecies, *Amazilia amazilia amazilia* based on the size of the white breast patch. This subspecies is normally found near Lima, Peru. According to Matt Rosen of the Des Moines Botanical Center, two hummingbirds had been purchased from the West Coast six to eight years ago. Tim Schantz and Sharon and Dick Stilwell had seen *Amazilia* hummingbirds at the center about two years ago. The records of what had been purchased by the Botanical Center could not be located. An employee of the Botanical Center said that the last hummingbird disappeared in late August of 1998. The timing and the identification as *Amazilia Hummingbird* strongly suggest that the feeder bird had escaped from the Botanical Center.

The bird continued to visit the feeder through October and November. Before capturing the hummingbird, Clark consulted with hummingbird experts in California, Arizona, Wisconsin, Louisiana, and Kansas. Since this bird was from Peru, migratory bird laws did not apply, but she did receive a temporary permit from the Iowa DNR to capture and transport the bird. She also obtained Nektar Plus, a supplemental food, to help the bird maintain the correct nutritional level in its diet.

Jackie Peers, at whose house the hummingbird spent most of its time when it wasn't at the Stolz house a block away, was very helpful and bleached the feeders and changed the food twice a day for at least two weeks.

Although capturing the bird with a mist net was tried several times by licensed banders, rainy weather and wind led to unsuccessful attempts. Clark and her husband built two traps, and David Spreadbury remodeled one of them, and rigged the trigger on both traps. Feeders at both houses were kept filled, and the bird was captured on 22 November 1998 at the home of Don and Carole Stolz. It was a nerve wracking experience, but the bird quickly acclimated to the cage and evidently didn't damage its feathers. The cage was covered with a sheet to help calm the bird and later was transported in it to Clark's home. Later that day, someone from the Des Moines Blank Park Zoo helped transfer the bird to another cage.

The Clarks drove to southern Kansas the next day and delivered the bird to Jan Hall, a licensed hummingbird bander and rehabilitator, with experience handling 1,000 hummingbirds. All the paper work, laws, and regulations were followed. The bird was hungry and ate immediately while she held it. Clark had provided two feeders in the last cage, but they must not have been attractive enough to the bird. Jan had a large cage prepared (3 feet square and 4 feet tall), with two feeders of Nektar Plus, plants surrounding the cage inside and out, perches, and grow lights for warmth.

For Thanksgiving, the hummingbird feasted on fruit flies. After some weeks of searching for a permanent home for the bird, the Sedgwick County Zoo in Kansas agreed to take the bird. First, it had to be in quarantine for a month, and then in a "howdy cage" (bigger cage made for acclimation) inside the exhibit. After a week of acclimation it was released into a huge walk-through rainforest with about 150 other birds of 60 different species. It receives fresh nectar twice a day and there is a constant supply of fruit flies available as well as other insects that may occur in the jungle. The exhibit consists of 28,000 square feet on two levels with winding paths, ponds and waterfalls and is one of the best rainforest exhibits in the country. The exhibit is 26 years old so the vegetation is very lush and established. The zoo is trying to locate a mate for him.

This was one of the most interesting challenges of bird identification that Iowa birders have encountered. Once identified, it was a further challenge to capture the bird, find a place that would care for it, and handle the paperwork involved in the transfer. It was only through the cooperative effort of many people that all of this was accomplished. Among the many people who helped in this effort were Don Stolz, Tim Schantz, Sharon and Dick Stilwell, Louis Bevier, Van Remsen, Jan Hall, Jim and Jackie Peers, David Spreadbury, Barb Miller, Dick Kremer, Jo Hudson, Leyria Walters, Amy Offenburger, Mike Overton, Jim Clark, Rick Hollis, Jim Fuller, Jim Sinclair, Rob and Karen Bradley, Beth Brown, USFWS, Iowa DNR, and all of the people from out of state who offered ideas and support. Without all of their efforts, this story would not have been possible.

512 SW. 60th Street, Des Moines, IA 50312 (Stolz), 9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325 (Clark), 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246 (Kent), and 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211 (Johnson). (Editor's note: Carole Stolz died on 22 June 1999).

sent to T. H. Kent Post No. 16  
21-Nov-98

On or around Sept. 2, 1998  
my husband seen an unusual  
bird. One we had never seen before.  
We are not birders, but we enjoy  
watching the birds + feeding them.

My husband decided the bird  
looked like a hummingbird  
with its long beak and also  
it went to the hummingbird feed-  
er. He got out the Bird Book  
looking for something like it.  
It looked so awfully lot like  
the Buff Bellied Hummingbird  
or Amazilla in our Golden  
book Birds of North America.  
This bird is from the Rio  
Grande.

The bird came everyday  
and probably had been here  
even longer than when we first  
noticed it. It was at our feed-  
er and in our tree grooming  
all of the time.

I decided to call the Audubon  
Society, Jane Clark, after about  
10 days from when we first  
seen the bird and report it

98-31

We had about 150 birders  
come + look at the bird and  
it was decided it was a  
Buff-Bellied Hummingbird  
Our house is located  
at 512 SW 60th St. in Des-  
Maines, Iowa. It is a small  
subdivision. We do have a  
large park in the back of  
our house. Also some of  
the neighbors also feed  
hummingbirds

Carole Staly  
512 SW 60  
Des Moines  
Iowa 50312

98-31

Dec 4-1998

Dear Mr. Kent,

I'm sorry I didn't get the date put down on that picture. That was one of the first things I meant to do.

The picture was taken by my husband, Donald D. Stolz on Sept. 12, 1998.

You probably know by now the bird was caught. It went pretty smoothly. The weather has really held us up though, so we wouldn't had another week.

Sincerely  
Carol Stolz

Buff-Bellied Hummingbird



## DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

**Species:** *Amazilia* species; **Number:** 1

**Location:** 512 SW 60<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines, Polk Co., IA

**Date:** 11 Sep 1998; **Time:** 7:50 to 8:40 a.m.

**Name and address:** Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

**Others before/with/after:** Don and Carol Stolz said the bird had been at their yard for eight days. They recently identified it as a Buff-bellied Hummingbird and notified birders. A number of birders saw it on 10 September—Gene and Eloise Armstrong, Pam and Reid Allen, Ann Johnson, Jim Dinsmore, Jim Fuller to name the ones that I recall. Bob Cecil and Aaron Brees were with me, and many others saw it during the Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting, which was held in Des Moines on 11 to 13 September.

**Habitat and circumstances:** Rather open urban area on southwest side of Des Moines in bottom land. There is a large deck behind the house with hummingbird feeder hanging from the eave and crab apple tree behind the deck and adjacent to the garage. A large vacant field is behind the property.

**Description of bird:** Bob and I arrived at 7:30 a.m. and first saw the bird at 7:50. It would stop at the feeder briefly, and then sit in the crab apple tree for a few minutes before flying off. It came in 6 or 7 times while I was there and I shot about 50 photos. The bird was longer and much bulkier than a female/immature Ruby-throated Hummingbird that came to the feeder, but was not seen in direct comparison. I first noted the deep buff (cinnamon) breast and belly with the same color on the rump. The throat was speckled green with a gray area centrally at the junction with the breast. There was a small white spot behind the eye. The bill was long, orange with black tip, and slightly decurved toward the tip. I made these notes while observing the bird, but then turned my attention to taking pictures. The first half roll was taken in the shade with 400 mm Tamron lens with 1.4 extender on a Cannon AE camera hand held with exposure at about 1/40<sup>th</sup> second. When I finished the roll, I went to the car and got another and a tripod. Later the sun rose to light the crab apple tree. The exposure and color was actually better in the shade; the sun lit tree caused the meter to overexpose for the bird. I thought that the cinnamon color was much deeper than that on the few Buff-bellied Hummingbirds that I have seen in Texas. We looked at the Nation Geographic Guide and noted that the cinnamon rump, white spot behind the eye, and high level of the line of demarcation between the throat and breast did not fit. During the next two days there was discussion that this might be the more southerly subspecies, *Amazilia yucatanensis yucatanensis*, as illustrated in Howell and Webb. On Sunday night, Bob Cecil called to say that Mike Overton had suggested that we look at the photo of *Amazilia* Hummingbird in the last issue of *Field Notes* (52(1):144, 1998). I grabbed my copy and told Bob that our bird looked like a perfect match with the bird photographed at Madera Canyon in Arizona on 1 Sep 1997. At this writing I have not located a reference that illustrates *Amazilia* Hummingbird. The following description is added based on my photographs and recollection. The bill is slightly longer than the head and the distal 1/5<sup>th</sup> is black, the rest orange-pink. The white spot is directly behind the dark eye and about the same size as the eye. The demarcation between breast and throat color is about at the bend of the wing. The central gray area covers both green and cinnamon areas. The throat exhibits both green and blue iridescence, which I saw several times when the bird stretched its neck, and was pleased to capture in one of my photos. The vent from the legs back is light gray, similar in color to the central gray on the throat. The rectrices appear cinnamon from below, black from above. The rump and back show an extensive amount of cinnamon. The primaries are black, and wing coverts are green. The tail extends just beyond the primaries. The top of the head is darker than the greenish hind neck and scapulars. The bird paid little attention to observers, although it may have moved in response to my moving closer for photos.

**Voice:** Aaron Brees heard the bird making chipping notes; I saw it moving its bill but I was not using my hearing aids.

**Similar species:** My experience and references on Buff-bellied Hummingbird suggest that the cinnamon color, extent of this color toward the throat, cinnamon rump/back, and white eye spot do not fit this species. I believe that the features shown in the photo of the Arizona "mystery" bird in *Field Notes* are a perfect fit for the Des Moines bird. I do not know of specific information on bird trafficking in Iowa. We had a Yellow Grosbeak north of Des Moines in December 1990, the origin of which was never explained.

**Any one have reservations?:** At this point in time, the identification is yet to be confirmed. It seems likely to me that we will not be able to confirm its origin unless someone steps forward and claims it.

**Light:** early morning shadow to direct sun light from behind observers; **Distance:** As close as 15 feet; **Optics:** 10x binocular; 540mm lens.

**Previous experience:** I have seen Buff-bellied Hummingbird about 5 times in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in the past 25 years. I have no experience with or knowledge of hummingbirds south of the United States.

**References before/after viewing:** see description.

**Time of notes:** early part of viewing time; **Final typing:** 19 September 1998.

Dear Tom,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to study your interesting hummingbird. I am certain it must be an escaped exotic species. In my opinion it is *Amazilia* Hummingbird, *Amazilia amazilia*.

The Des Moines hummingbird is probably nominate *Amazilia a. amazilia*, which is resident just to the north and south of Lima, Peru. The size and pattern of the white area in the lower throat match specimens of the nominate race in our collection at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The throat and upper breast pattern with a small patch of white is typically of nominate *amazilia*, others having a large white pectoral patch. The species in general shows the broad rufous vest and white belly/vent, rufous tail and lower back/rump, and the spot of white behind the eye. Some races differ in amount of rufous in tail and lower back/rump.

Nominate *amazilia*, as well as other races now subsumed under the species *A. amazilia*, are illustrated in Gould's Hummingbirds (see Wellfleet Press reissue). Nominate *amazilia* is illustrated on plate 303, there under the synonym *Amazilis pristina* (Gould Monog. of the Trochilidae). Another race of *Amazilia* Hummingbird, from Ecuador, with more white in the breast is portrayed in a newer edition of Dunning's Land Birds of South America (a VIREO photo).

Other species of *Amazilia*, including the Yucatan race of Buff-bellied Hummingbird differ in several characters shown by the Des Moines bird. Some have less rufous in the tail. A clear, precise description of the rectrices is not available to me, however. Observers should describe the central rectrices and outer rectrices. No other *Amazilia* shows the white pectoral patch.

#### Status in captivity

I have no first-hand information on this subject. I received the following messages bearing on this questions during discussion of the "Madera" bird:

"With regard to captives, the San Diego Zoo has a fine specimen of *Amazilia amazilia* zinging around their hummingbird aviary. . ."

Best, Michael [Patten]

"Someone on this list asked whether any *Amazilia amazilia* are kept in captivity in the U.S. While visiting the Amazon exhibit at the National Zoo in Washington DC several years ago, *Amazilia amazilia* was one of the most prominent hummingbirds in the exhibit (in fact I am not even sure whether any other hummingbird species were present). The other birds in the exhibit were all species that unlike *A. amazilia* actually do occur in the Amazon basin, so I wonder if *A. amazilia* was chosen because it is easier to keep in captivity? I don't know if this helps much with the Madera bird, but if anything it does show that *A. amazilia* is kept in captivity in the U.S. . . ."

Ottavio Janni, Washington, D.C., ottavioj@iadb.org

If I had to guess, the source region for nominate *amazilia* around Lima, Peru, would put the likelihood of its occurrence in captivity quite a bit higher than if this were one of the other races of *Amazilia* Hummingbird. Regarding the Des Moines bird, I received the following:

Louis,

While I can add little other than the opinion that your hummer looks to me like *Amazilia amazilia* (which I've seen in Ecuador), I did want to mention something that astounded me that was reported in Field Notes. It was written that *Amazilia amazilia* is one of the commonest hummers in aviary collections. As a hummingbird enthusiast, I have visited many zoos with hummers in their collections over the years, and I have never seen this species in captivity! I would do my own checking on the prevalence of this species in captivity before accepting that comment in Field Notes as gospel.

Allen Chartier, Managing Editor Michigan Birds & Natural History  
Inkster, Michigan, amazilia@juno.com

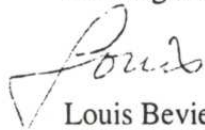
An interesting side-light to this issue is the story about the "Madera" bird. I have heard

from Mike Rogers, secretary of the California committee, that Earl Robinson has submitted other mystery birds to that committee. These included birds that the committee has identified as Pied Avocet and Laughing Dove. The photographs are purported to be from localities in California. In the case of the Pied Avocet, the shoreline looks nothing like the Salton Sea where Earl claimed to photograph the bird. In their opinion, Earl Robinson is faking the locality data. We should consider his photograph of Amazilia Hummingbird to be more likely from an aviary than from Madera Canyon, Arizona! Thus, your Des Moines bird may be the FIRST instance of this species identified out on the loose in North America.

I noted with interest how quickly the identification of the Des Moines bird spread and how it became "known" that the bird escaped from the Des Moines Botanical Center. The following message from Jane Clark makes this "fact" far from certain:

Dear Louis -- thank you for your response and comments about the Iowa Hummingbird. I have checked with the Omaha Zoo and Omaha Botanical Garden, the Kansas City Zoo, the St. Paul Zoo, the Minneapolis Zoo, the Des Moines Blank Park Zoo, Mid-America Caged Bird Society, and the Des Moines Botanical Center. The Des Moines Botanical Center is the only place of those listed that has had any hummingbirds in captivity. The Center received hummingbirds 6-8 years ago from a "West Coast firm" which is no longer doing that sort of work. The two employees of the Center who might have known what species were purchased are no longer in the state, and the Center has no records, no species names, and the birds were not banded. However, Sharon Stilwell and Tim Schantz (who is also not in the state now) recall that some of the hummingbirds were Amazilia species (from visits 2-3 years ago).

Good luck with your deliberations.  
Best regards,



Louis Bevier  
25 W. Phil Ellena St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19119  
email: bevier@say.acnatsci.org

P.S. I kept one of the photographs. Thanks!

98-31

Subj: Hummingbird  
Date: 98-09-18 19:04:32 EDT  
From: hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net (Ann Johnson)  
Reply-to: hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net  
To: meekeckk@ncn.net (Matthew Kenne), Sinclear@aol.com (Jim Sinclair), thkent@aol.com (Tom Kent), oldcoot@iastate.edu (Jim Dinsmore), richard-hollis@uiowa.edu (Richard Hollis), IOUFuller@aol.com (Jim Fuller), jrclark@radiks.net (Jane Clark), wewarb@aol.com (Bob Cecil)

Just thought you all might be interested. Just hung up the phone from talking to Schantz. He said the Botanical Center had several Amazilia two years ago in addition to some other South American species.

Tim just got in from the wilderness and is off chasing a Common Crane. His father thinks they have a Rufous Hummingbird coming to the feeder. I'll try to check it out this weekend.

AJ

----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net>  
Received: from rly-zc05.mx.aol.com (rly-zc05.mail.aol.com [172.31.33.5]) by air-zc05.mail.aol.com (v50.5) with SMTP; Fri, 18 Sep 1998 19:04:31 -0400  
Received: from mtiwmhc03.worldnet.att.net (mtiwmhc03.worldnet.att.net [204.127.131.38])  
by rly-zc05.mx.aol.com (8.8.8/8.8.5/AOL-4.0.0)  
with ESMTP id TAA24589;  
Fri, 18 Sep 1998 19:04:22 -0400 (EDT)  
Received: from rose ([12.75.192.230]) by mtiwmhc03.worldnet.att.net  
(InterMail v03.02.03 118 118 102) with SMTP  
id <19980918230420.CZHA29406@rose>;  
Fri, 18 Sep 1998 23:04:20 +0000  
Reply-To: <hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net>  
From: "Ann Johnson" <hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net>  
To: "Matthew Kenne" <meekeckk@ncn.net>, "Jim Sinclair" <Sinclear@aol.com>,  
"Tom Kent" <thkent@aol.com>, "Jim Dinsmore" <oldcoot@iastate.edu>,  
"Richard Hollis" <richard-hollis@uiowa.edu>,  
"Jim Fuller" <IOUFuller@aol.com>, "Jane Clark" <jrclark@radiks.net>,  
"Bob Cecil" <wewarb@aol.com>  
Subject: Hummingbird  
Date: Fri, 18 Sep 1998 17:56:00 -0500  
Message-ID: <000101bde357\$8220f5e0\$f2894b0c@rose>  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain;  
charset="iso-8859-1"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit  
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook 8.5, Build 4.71.2377.0  
Importance: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.2120.0

>  
> Lloyd

>  
>  
>  
>  
> \*\*\*\*\*  
> Lloyd D. Moore  
> 1250 Scott Avenue  
> Kansas City, Kansas 66105  
> E-mail: ictinia@swbell.net  
> \*\*\*\*\*

> Does anyone have any idea what size the amazilia amazilia is supposed to be? The bird in the photo in Field Notes was originally thought possibly a Berylline, and then later thought to be Amazilia. But the Berylline is much smaller than the Des Moines bird and more the size of a Ruby-throat, isn't it? Then what size is the Amazilia?

>  
> Jane C.

> -----  
> > From: Sharon Stilwell <sstilwel@mdp.com>  
> > To: richard-hollis@uiowa.edu  
> > Cc: jrclark@radiks.net; hologrambirds@worldnet.att.ne  
> > Subject: Re: Hummer -Reply  
> > Date: Wednesday, September 23, 1998 1:44 PM  
> >

> > Jane and I got different stories at the Botanical Center. Dick and I went over Sat am to video tape their birds. We couldn't find feeders or birds. I had staked them out a couple of years ago and watched the birds for quite a while so thought this would be easy. Our idea was to do the digital video of them and send both pix around to birders to compare. We located a man who seemed to be in charge of the dome. He said they were all dead. Then he said actually that he didn't think they died, but instead got out through holes in the dome. He said the last one disappeared about a month ago. Jane talked to Matt Rosen. He said they have two birds, no records, etc. Jane has located the guy who did the original purchase, I believe. He no longer works at the BC.

Dick and I don't think they would need to get out through the dome. The doors to their loading area were wide open the entire time we were there.

As I remember the birds at the BC, they were smaller than the yard bird, but then it was a while back (at least two years) and I had no other hummers to compare. David Bird worked at the BC then. He was a plant and all around nature guy. He told me that they(the two survivors) were amazilia amazilia. When I observed them, they frequented the feeders and plants too and protected their territories from high perches just like any other hummers. I checked them out whenever I went to the BC which was about once a month. They always had full fairly clean feeders. David also said they were birds that had be raised, not captured.

> >  
> > Sharon

98-31

Subj: Re: Hummingbird  
Date: 98-09-19 00:01:53 EDT  
From: jrclark@radiks.net (jrclark)  
To: hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net, meekeckk@ncn.net (Matthew Kenne), Sinclear@aol.com (Jim Sinclair), thkent@aol.com (Tom Kent), oldcoot@iastate.edu (Jim Dinsmore), richard-hollis@uiowa.edu (Richard Hollis), IOUFuller@aol.com (Jim Fuller), wewarb@aol.com (Bob Cecil)

Matt Rosen at the Botanical Center told me Monday that they had two hummingbirds that they purchased from a West Coast firm 6-8 years ago. He said the person who arranged their purchase is no longer in Iowa, the company is no longer in this business, and that they had no records of what kind of birds they were except they were from South America, and the birds were not banded and they were brought in by air in the passenger section. Their horticulturist told me the ones they had were about the size of a ruby-throated hummingbird. Sharon Stilwell told me they were Amazilia, and she has seen them some time ago, but I don't think she thought they were larger in size like this one. I guess we need to go to the Botanical Center and see if they still have two. Natt Strickland of the Mid-America Caged Bird Society told me he didn't know of any other captive hummingbirds in Iowa, except for the ones at the Botanical Center. The Caged Bird Society has a show on October 3rd at the Airport Best Western.

Jane Clark

---

> From: Ann Johnson <hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net>  
> To: Matthew Kenne <meekeckk@ncn.net>; Jim Sinclair <Sinclear@aol.com>;  
Tom Kent <thkent@aol.com>; Jim Dinsmore <oldcoot@iastate.edu>; Richard  
Hollis <richard-hollis@uiowa.edu>; Jim Fuller <IOUFuller@aol.com>; Jane  
Clark <jrclark@radiks.net>; Bob Cecil <wewarb@aol.com>  
> Subject: Hummingbird  
> Date: Friday, September 18, 1998 5:56 PM  
>  
> Just thought you all might be interested. Just hung up the phone from  
> talking to Schantz. He said the Botanical Center had several Amazilia  
two  
> years ago in addition to some other South American species.  
>  
> Tim just got in from the wilderness and is off chasing a Common Crane.  
His  
> father thinks they have a Rufous Hummingbird coming to the feeder. I'll  
try  
> to check it out this weekend.  
>  
> AJ

---

----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <jrclark@radiks.net>  
Received: from rly-za05.mx.aol.com (rly-za05.mail.aol.com [172.31.36.101]) by air-za05.mail.aol.com (v50.5) with SMTP;  
Sat, 19 Sep 1998 00:01:53 -0400  
Received: from mail.radiks.net (mail.radiks.net [205.138.126.4])  
by rly-za05.mx.aol.com (8.8.8/8.8.5/AOL-4.0.0)  
with ESMTP id AAA08019;  
Sat, 19 Sep 1998 00:00:14 -0400 (EDT)  
Received: from default (dmn107.radiks.net [205.216.90.18])  
by mail.radiks.net (8.9.1/8.9.1) with ESMTP id WAA20480;

The latest. You have probably heard this.  
Ross

-----

> From: Lloyd D. Moore <ictinia@swbell.net>  
> To: Ross Silcock <silcock@sidney.heartland.net>  
> Subject: Amazilia  
> Date: Wednesday, September 23, 1998 7:59 PM  
>  
> Ross:  
>  
> Its my understanding that Van Remsen has compared the photos to  
> specimens at LSU and says the bird is Amazilia Amazilia, a male from  
> one of the northern subspecies.  
>  
> Sounds to me like its probably the bird from the botanical garden  
> that, "maybe flew out the top".  
>  
> Thanks for the info,  
>  
> Lloyd  
>  
>  
>  
>

\*\*\*\*\*

> Lloyd D. Moore  
> 1250 Scott Avenue  
> Kansas City, Kansas 66105  
> E-mail: ictinia@swbell.net  
>

> "Like the winds and sunsets wild things were taken for granted  
> until progress began to do away with them." - Aldo Leopold  
>

\*\*\*\*\*

>

---

A colleague posted the web site pictures to HUMNET, and asked for ID help.

Van Remsen, LSU Museum of Natural Science, replied:

"from what I can tell from comparing the pictures to specimens, the bird is indeed Amazilia amazilia (a male from one of the northern subspecies).

I guess, if there was any doubt, we now know where it came from and what species it is.

Why do places like DM Bot get permission to keep them if they cannot even keep their doors closed?

Richard J Hollis  
University of Iowa College of Medicine  
Pathology Dept  
273 MRC  
Iowa City IA 52242



Subj: FW: amazillia  
Date: 11/23/98 9:41:38 AM Central Standard Time  
From: james-fuller@uiowa.edu (Fuller, Jim)  
To: gtrault@msn.com ('gtrault@msn.com'), thkent@aol.com ('thkent@aol.com'), cfuller@lisco.net ('cfuller@lisco.net')

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Steve Roman [SMTP:decke003@maroon.tc.umn.edu]  
> Sent: Sunday, November 22, 1998 4:20 PM  
> To: Mnbird-Group Mnbird  
> Subject: Fw: amazillia

> Steve Roman, Champlin, MN  
> decke003@maroon.tc.umn.edu

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Marge Gibson <dgib@newnorth.net>  
> To: wisbirdn@lawrence.edu <wisbirdn@lawrence.edu>  
> Date: Sunday, November 22, 1998 4:12 PM  
> Subject: amazillia

>> For those list members that have been following the hummingbird odyssey  
> in  
>> Des Moines, Iowa the bird was finally trapped at 2 PM this afternoon and  
>> will be transported tomorrow morning to Kansas to a hummingbird  
>> rehabilitator and then if all checks out OK he will be taken to the South  
>> Texas border, banded and released.

>> He appears to be in good health for the experience he has endured.

>> Regards,  
>> Marge Gibson

>> Marge Gibson  
>> Raptor Education Group Inc.  
>> Antigo, WI 54409  
>> 715-623-4015  
>> FAX- 715-627-4436  
>> IWRC President  
>> dgib@newnorth.net

----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <james-fuller@uiowa.edu>  
Received: from rly-zc04.mx.aol.com (rly-zc04.mail.aol.com [172.31.33.4]) by air-zc05.mail.aol.com (v51.29) with SMTP; Mon, 23 Nov 1998 10:41:38 -0500  
Received: from canine.dentistry.uiowa.edu (canine.dentistry.uiowa.edu [128.255.168.44])  
by rly-zc04.mx.aol.com (8.8.8/8.8.5/AOL-4.0.0)