

# LIVING WORLD

Journal of the Trinidad and Tobago  
Field Naturalists' Club

[admin@ttfnc.org](mailto:admin@ttfnc.org)

ISSN 1029-3299



## A Leucistic Copper-rumped Hummingbird (*Amazilia tobaci*) on Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago

Matt Kelly

Kelly, M. 2014. A Leucistic Copper-rumped Hummingbird (*Amazilia tobaci*) on Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago. *Living World, Journal of The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club*, 2014, 55.

Kelly, M. 2014. A Leucistic Copper-rumped Hummingbird (*Amazilia tobaci*) on Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago. *Living World, Journal of The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club*, 2014, 55.

---

## A Leucistic Copper-rumped Hummingbird (*Amazilia tobaci*) on Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago

A leucistic hummingbird was seen on Tobago (Fig. 1). This may be the first all-white hummingbird recorded in Trinidad and Tobago. The bird was first seen on 24 November, 2013 at 1055 h at Adventure Farm and Nature Reserve Bird Observation Centre near Arnos Vale in Tobago. Adventure Farm maintains flowers, gardens and bird feeding stations to encourage the viewing of the local birds.

Leucism is a rare condition which affects the pigment in skin, hair and feathers of animals “characterised by reduced pigmentation,” as opposed to albinism, which is “a congenital disorder characterised by the complete or partial absence of pigment in the skin, hair and eyes due to absence or defect of tyrosinase, a copper-containing enzyme involved in the production of melanin” (Wikipedia).

The white hummingbird, which was determined to be a Copper-rumped Hummingbird (*Amazilia tobaci*), became an instant hit. I saw the bird on 8 December, 2013. The bird returned to the hummingbird feeders about every 20 minutes.

The body and head were all pure white, except for the bill which was dark, mostly straight and had a pink lower mandible. The legs and feet were dark, as were the eyes. The primaries were a light-brown colour. The outer, or primary feathers appeared to be frayed and somewhat ragged with the leading edge completely worn, and the dark skin showing through. The flight also appeared not to be as strong as the other hummingbirds, with more pe-

riods of gliding and less acrobatic flight than of the other hummers. Despite the territoriality of the other hummingbirds present, this bird held his own at the feeders.

The bird visited the feeders daily for about six weeks, but was not seen subsequently.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Ean Mackay and Roger Neckles for sharing their observations.

### REFERENCES

Wikipedia, Leucism; <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leucism>  
Wikipedia, Albinism; <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albinism>

### Matt Kelly

*veganpeace2@gmail.com*



**Fig. 1.** Leucistic Copper-rumped Hummingbird in Tobago. Photographed: 8 December, 2013.