Aging and sexing key for Amethyst-throated (*Lampornis amethystinus*) and White-eared Hummingbirds (*Hylocharis leucotis*)

1) Juvenile plumage (ephemeral trait):

Presence…….. **Juvenile bird[a] (photos 1-3)**

Absence.....2

2) Clear striations over the bill (usually > 30%)

Presence…….. **First-cycle bird (photos 3-6)**

Absence.....3

3) Incomplete male ornaments[b]

Presence…….. **First-cycle male (photos 7-8)**

Absence.....4

4) Central rectrices and primaries:

Pointed ……**First-cycle female[c,d] (photos 9-17)**

Rounded.....5

5) Male ornaments:

Complete…… **Definitive-cycle male (photos 18-19)**

Absence…….. **Definitive-cycle female (photos 20-21)**

Notes:

[a] Amethyst-throated Hummingbird juveniles cannot be sexed.

[b] Glittering gorget and frontlet plus red at base of bill in White-eared Hummingbird. Only gorget in Amethyst-throated Hummingbird.

[c] First-cycle birds of both sexes have pointed primaries and rectrices.

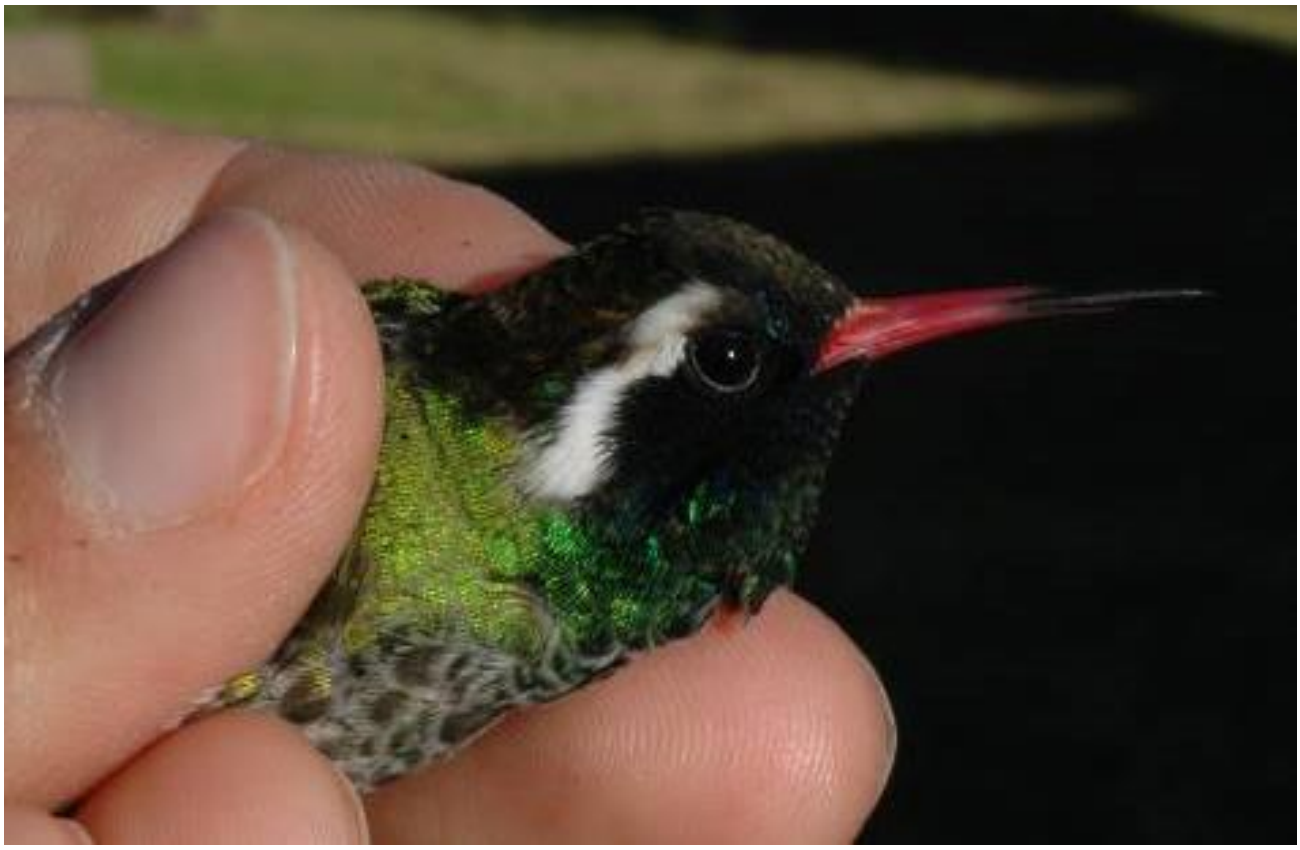
[d] White-eared Hummingbird primaries do not show noticeable between-age differences.

1. Juvenile male plumage and bill striations of White-eared Hummingbird. Note that bill base is already red. Striations smooth off faster on the red area.

2. Juvenile plumage of Amethyst-throated Hummingbird. Buffy margins wear off in a few weeks.

3. Juvenile female plumage and bill striations of White-eared Hummingbird. Note complete black bill.

4. Bill striations of first-cycle Amethyst-throated Hummingbird.

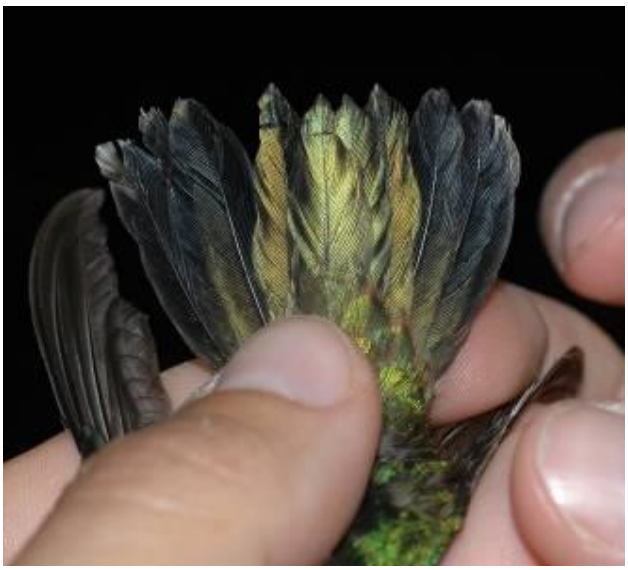


5. Smooth bill of definitive male White-eared Hummingbird.

6. Smooth bill of definitive male Amethyst-throated Hummingbird.

7. Incomplete gorget and frontlet of first-cycle White-eared Hummingbird. Iridescent feathers are progressively acquired before the onset of the prebasic molt.

8. Incomplete gorget of first-cycle Amethyst-throated Hummingbird. Iridescent feathers do not occupy the whole throat.



9. First-cycle rectrices of White-eared Hummingbird. This is an extreme case.

10. First-cycle rectrices of Amethyst-throated Hummingbird. Note that all rectrices are more pointed, especially R1 and R2.

11. Definitive rectrices of White-eared Hummingbird growing in.

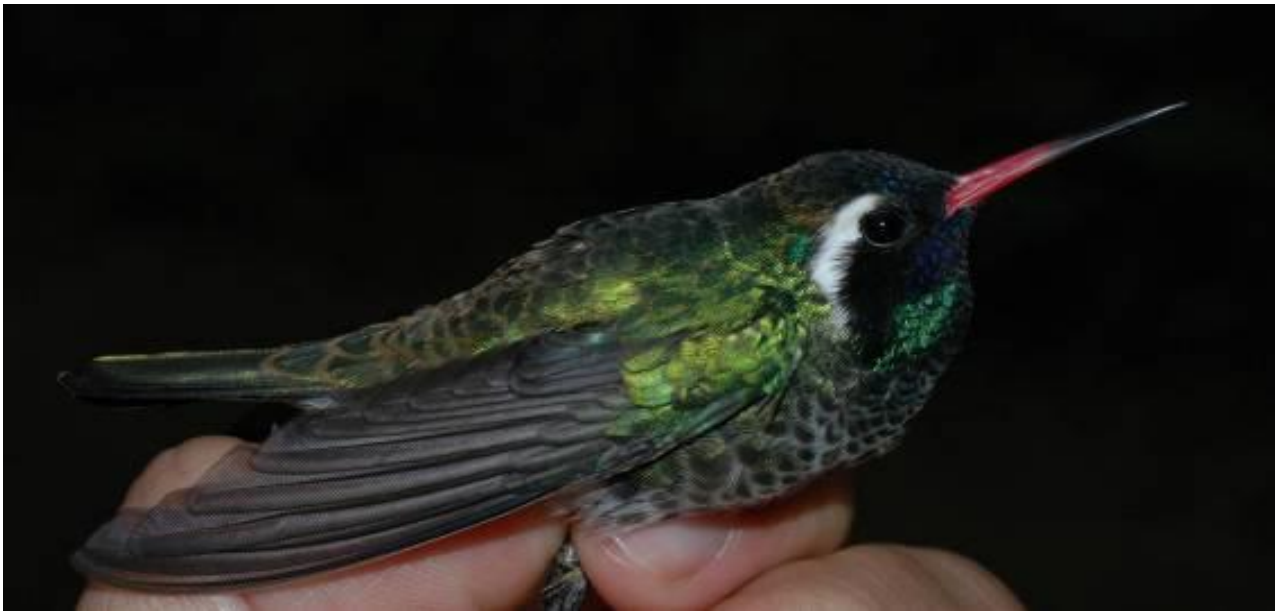
12. Definitive rectrices of male Amethyst-throated Hummingbird (females show pure white on RR 3-6). Left R1 broken at fault bar.

14. Beware of first-cycle birds with replaced rectrices. This White-eared Hummingbird replaced both R1 and right R3.

15. Beware of first-cycle birds with replaced rectrices. This Amethyst-throated Hummingbird replaced the left R1.

16. Rounded primaries and squarer secondaries of definitive Amethyst-throated Hummingbird.

17. Pointed primaries and rounder secondaries of first-cycle Amethyst-throated Hummingbird.



18. Definitive male White-eared Hummingbird.

19. Definitive male Amethyst-throated Hummingbird. Iridescent throat feathers reach the malar area.

20. Definitive female White-eared Hummingbird have scattered more pallid iridescent gorget and frontlet feathers.

21. Definitive female Amethyst-throated Hummingbird.