

NOTES

THE BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD IN CALIFORNIA

The Broad-billed Hummingbird *Cynanthus latirostris* is a fairly common and widespread species in Mexico whose range barely extends into the southwestern United States. It is a summer visitor from southwestern New Mexico (Cloverdale Mountains) to south central Arizona (Baboquivari Mountains) (A.O.U. Check-list, 1957); it has straggled as far east as west Texas (Chisos Mountains) (R. H. Wauer, pers. comm.). In Arizona it occurs between mid-March, occasionally the first week of March, to mid-September, occasionally to 1 October; one remained near Tucson to 4 December 1960 (Phillips et al., *The Birds of Arizona*, 1964).

There are now five records, involving six individuals, of the Broad-billed Hummingbird for California, and all have occurred between October and April. A male frequented a feeder at 3536 Sidney Place, San Diego, San Diego County, between mid-November 1961 and mid-March 1962 (Maureen Heraty, pers. comm.) and I was able to study it on 29 January and again on 18 February. Eleanor Pugh, Marie Manns, and I discovered a male in the Tijuana River Valley near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, on 14 October 1962. A male was frequenting a feeder in Redlands, San Bernardino County, between 2 January and mid-February 1964 (Mr. & Mrs. F. Adams, pers. comm.); it was photographed (fig. 1) by Ann Wissler on 2 February, and I was able to study it on 7 February. Richard Stallcup (pers. comm.) saw a male and female together in the Tijuana River Valley near Imperial Beach on 9 November 1963, and was able to give me an adequate description of both birds, which were feeding around tree tobacco *Nicotiana glauca* along Monument Road with other hummingbirds. Vernal Yadon (pers. comm.) saw a male circle around his patio in Pacific Grove, Monterey County, on 21 April 1969, and clearly noted the orange bill with dark tip, and turquoise blue throat and breast combination, and also the fact that it actively flicked its tail as it moved about.

My notes contain descriptions of the three individuals I saw. The one seen on 14 October 1962 was along 19th Street near the intersection of 19th Street and Monument Road in the Tijuana River Valley. It was alone, feeding around the yellow flowers of the tree tobacco, a plant that is common and widespread in the area. I was first attracted to it by its loud chattering call, reminiscent of the call of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*. It was watched hovering at the yellow flowers and perched on the exposed limbs of the tree tobacco, and the following description was obtained:

Primarily an iridescent green on the head, back, and underparts; chin and throat iridescent blue; under tail coverts white. A thin white line extended from just above the eye backward towards the ear coverts for a short distance. The tail was blackish and deeply notched, and was held slightly spread and flicked up and down when the bird was hovering. The bill was mostly red with only a little black on the tip.

I attempted to collect this individual, but missed. When shot at, the bird flew straight up into the air to a height of about 100 feet, then sped off to the north.

My notes indicate the bird present in San Diego between November 1961 and March 1962 was similar to the 14 October bird; however, there is no mention of the white behind the eye. This individual was seen by numerous observers, and was reported to have been photographed (*Audubon Field Notes*, 16:75, 1962). I am unable to trace anyone who has one of these photographs.

NOTES

The individual present in Redlands in January and February 1964 was also similar to the 14 October bird; however, the white behind the eye may have been more prominent. Copies of two color slides taken by Ann Wissler are deposited in the San Diego Natural History Museum, and both clearly show the blue throat, green breast and belly, white under tail coverts, the white spot behind the eye, and the black tipped red bill.

One was reported on the San Bernardino Christmas Count of 27 December 1964 with the comments "regular at V. Y. feeder, photographed". The record lacks convincing details (it is not clear whether the bird was a male or female), and I learned the bird photographed was not this individual, but the one in Redlands in 1964. *Guy McCaskie, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92112.*



FIGURE 1. A male Broad-billed Hummingbird photographed in Redlands, San Bernardino County, on 2 February 1964. The color transparency from which this picture was made is deposited in the San Diego Natural History Museum. The transparency clearly shows the throat area is blue, the breast and belly are green, the crown and side of neck are green, the under tail coverts are white, and the bill is bright red at the base. *Photo by Ann Wissler.*