

5-1997

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Broad-billed Hummingbird

Scientific Name: Cynanthus latirostris

Date: Sept. 13,14,15,16
1997

Length of time observed: Viewed many times
on all 4 days.

Number: One

Age: Probable
Immature

Sex: Male

Location: Oak Creek Government Housing --Backyard Feeder

#11

Zion National Park Springdale, UT

Latilong: 113.0 W 37.2° N

Elevation (if known): 3,972 ft.

Distance to bird: 6 feet

Light conditions: Excellent - seen in full sun

Optical equipment: Binoculars & SLR Cameras with telephoto lens

Weather: Unstable - Cloudy; Scattered showers; some sunny periods

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Male bird; probably a juvenile, as colors were patchy here and there. The main identifying feature was the red bill and over-all dark color of the bird; very blue/turquoise gorget, and green body; dark tail (blue in some lighting), and faint, thin white ear stripe. When it was perched on the feeder, we could also observe the white undertail coverts.

It's call was very distinct as well.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: Very distinct call compared to the other hummingbirds. The day before, I had heard what sounded like a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in my back yard (not here this time of year). After hearing the Broad-billed, I'm sure it was the bird I heard.
Behavior: Quite different from our usual Black-chinned and Rufous Hummers. Slightly larger; slightly slower wingbeat. Unlike the other hummers, it flew in & fed, then went to a perch in a live oak, where it sat 10-20 minutes before coming back to the feeder again. Did not actively pursue the other hummingbirds; was fairly easily chased off by the Rufous, although it stood its ground to a point.

Habitat: Backyard feeder. Lawn & near-by shrubs including: Live Oak, Juniper, Pinon, Sage, and Yucca.

cactus

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated: White-eared Hummingbird
However After consulting various bird field guides, there was little doubt in my mind as to the species: red beak, very faint thin white ear stripe, blue gorget, green body, white undertail coverts, dark tail, and over-all dark in color. I had several other local birders come over to confirm the identification as well.

What experience have you had with this and similar species: This was the first time I had seen this species, but other birders who have observed the Broad-billed in Arizona confirmed the sighting.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Books: National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of N. A., Lives Of North Am. Birds, and Hummingbirds of N. Am.

Also consulted NPS Resource Management personnel and other local NPS (National Park Service) birders.

Significance of record in this area or the state: This species was seen in near-by Springdale in 1978 & 1979.

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)
Photos to follow when developed.

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ___ notes made later x from memory ___

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Signature:

Becky Zurcher

Other observers who independently identified this bird: Shane Pruett (Resource Management - Zion National Park), Colleen Gibbons, Bob Showler, and Christi Carmichael.

Date prepared: 9-18-97

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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