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Documentation of the First Known Occurrence of the Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) in Arkansas

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Broad-billed Hummingbirds (*Cynanthus latirostris*) occur as residents in Mexico from Sonora and Chihuahua south to Chiapas in the west and in the east to parts of western Tamaulipas and Veracruz (American Ornithologist' Union 1998). In the United States this species is migratory, typically wintering in Mexico and occurring during the breeding season in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico (Powers and Wethington 1999). Herein we report on the occurrence of a first-year male Broad-billed Hummingbird found during winter 2005-2006 in White Hall, Arkansas (Jefferson Co.). This represents the first documented occurrence of this species in the state.

In late November 2005 an apparent over-wintering hummingbird was detected visiting a nectar feeder at a residence in White Hall (34.2528° N, 92.1059° W [NAD 27]) (M. Branch, pers. comm.). On 28 December 2005 this bird was initially identified as a Broad-billed Hummingbird by Becky Wheeler, Lance Peacock, and Leslie Peacock (pers. comm.). A general description of the bird, based on both field observation and inspection of photographs by RHD, included: long, needle-like bill widened at the base; lower mandible bright orange-red with dark tip and with upper mandible mostly dark but orange-red near posterior end; head and nape iridescent emerald to coppery-green; gorget iridescent blue; eyes dark with slightly-elongated white postocular spot; back, wing coverts, and uppertail coverts iridescent coppery-green; remiges dark gray-black, extending to tip of tail when perched; breast and belly iridescent emerald green; undertail coverts light gray; tail deeply forked; rectrices (r) dark blackish-blue with gray tips on r1 (right r4 with sheath visible at base suggestive of recent molt). The lack of extensive red on the upper mandible, elongated postocular spot, and lack of gray on tips of outer rectrices signify this individual was a first-year male Broad-billed Hummingbird (Moore 1939, Pyle 1997, Powers and Wethington 1999). Partial anterior and posterior images of the bird are presented in Fig. 1.

Vocalizations from the bird were delivered at rest and in flight. Sounds were a chatter consisting of a rapid, repetitive sequence of notes ("chit"). These notes are thought to be given when the bird is in mild alarm (Powers and Wethington 1999). This Broad-billed Hummingbird chatter call is similar in sound to the call produced by Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*).

The bird continued to visit the nectar feeder, and on 5 January 2006 it was trapped, measured, banded by EPF, and

released unharmed. Measurements of the bird were as follows: wing chord = 53.5 mm, tail length = 31.0 mm, exposed culmen = 21.0 mm, mass = 3.42 g. In addition to plumage characteristics, these measurements help to distinguish this bird from most North American hummingbirds and identify it as a Broad-billed Hummingbird (Pyle 1997). Slight bill corrugations were noted, further indicating that the bird was likely in its first year (Ortiz-Crespo 1972). As additional documentation of this record, the third rectrix (r3) on the right side of the tail was collected as a preserved partial specimen and is archived at the University of Arkansas – Little Rock (accession number UALR-H053, W. Baltosser, pers. comm.). This Broad-billed Hummingbird continued to feed at the same nectar feeder until it was last detected on 30 March 2006 and was presumed to have dispersed.

This occurrence of a Broad-billed Hummingbird is the first for Arkansas and one of the most distant winter records for the species, approximately 1400 km from its usual winter range in southern Tamaulipas, Mexico. Most previous extralimital winter records of this species have occurred in areas of the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico, principally in coastal areas of Louisiana, in central and west Texas, and in southern California (Howell 2002, Williamson 2001). A few recent additional extralimital observations of wintering Broad-billed Hummingbirds from eastern and central North America have been recorded from Alabama (Cooley 2002, 2003), Georgia (Davis 2002), Illinois (Brock 1997), Kansas (Grzybowski and Silcock 2005), North Carolina (LeGrand et al. 2002), and Oklahoma (Arterburn 2004). While the number of vagrant occurrences of non-breeding Broad-billed Hummingbirds has increased across North America, much of this may be due to an increase in the number of observers and their increased skill at field identification. Additional factors, such as climate change, weather patterns, and residential plantings may also be contributing factors to the increased number of reported extralimital occurrences of this species throughout North America.

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Fig. 1. Partial anterior (A) and posterior (B) views of a Broad-billed Hummingbird found in White Hall, Arkansas, during the 2005-2006 winter. Images taken 29 December 2005.

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