

HUMMINGBIRDS — FAMILY TROCHILIDAE

Broad-billed Hummingbird *Cyananthus latirostris*

Largely a Mexican species, the Broad-billed Hummingbird breeds no closer to California than southeastern Arizona. Yet it has crossed the Colorado River as a vagrant to California over 75 times, yielding 16 more or less well-supported records for San Diego County, all in fall and winter.

Migration: Eight of San Diego County's Broad-billed Hummingbirds have occurred in fall between 9 September and 9 November. Of these, one was at Point Loma (S7) 22 October 2001 (R. E. Webster, Garrett and Wilson 2003), and seven were in the Tijuana River valley (two on 9 November 1963, single birds 14 October 1962, 20–23 September 1977, 8–9 October 1981, 9–11 September 1983, and 5–8 October 1997).

Evidence for all but those in 1963 has been submitted to and accepted by the California Bird Records Committee. The committee rejected a spring report published in *American Birds* (Patten et al. 1995b).

Winter: The county's nine winter records of the Broad-billed Hummingbird, from 10 November to mid March, are more widely scattered. Seven are from the coastal lowland, from San Diego mid November 1961–mid March 1962 (Dunn 1988), from Spring Valley (R12) 8–10 March 1979 (M. Thornburgh, AB 33:314, 1979), from Balboa Park (R9) 28 November 1979–29 February 1980 and returning in at least four of the five subsequent winters (Bevier 1990), from Rancho Santa Fe (L8) 18 December 1982–15 January 1983 (L. R. Santaella, AB 27:339, 1983),

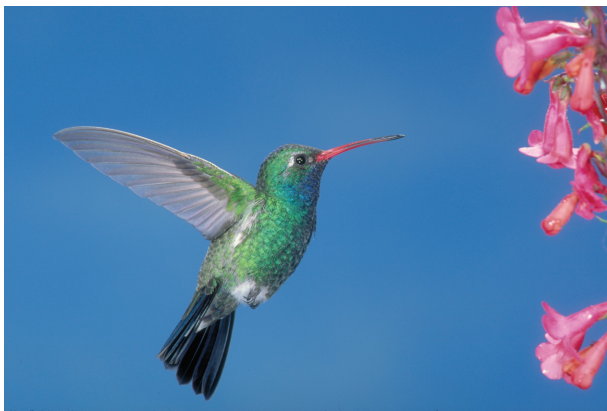


Photo by Anthony Mercieca

from Coronado (S9) 11 January–28 February 1986 (R. E. Webster, Bevier 1990), from San Elijo Lagoon (L7) 5–10 January 1998 (M. B. Stowe, R. T. Patton, Erickson and Hamilton 2001), and from Upper Otay Lake (U13) 12 December 1999–10 March 2000 (G. Morse, D. Griffin, McKee and Erickson 2002). Two records are from Agua Caliente Springs (M26) in the Anza–Borrego Desert, 16 January–10 February 1977 (G. McCaskie, Luther 1980) and 15–21 March 1982 (D. Dewey, AB 36:894, 1982).

Taxonomy: No specimen is preserved from San Diego County (or anywhere in California), but the birds at Balboa Park and Upper Otay Lake were photographed. Presumably the subspecies reaching us is *C. l. magicus* (Mulsant and Verreaux, 1872).