

Violet-crowned Hummingbird *Amazilia violiceps*

The breeding range of the Violet-crowned Hummingbird barely extends across the Mexican border into extreme southeastern Arizona, and the species is one of the rarest vagrants to California, with only five records through 2002. One of these is for San Diego County, of a bird that remained for an entire month, to be seen and enjoyed by over 500 spectators.

Migration: The single record of the Violet-crowned Hummingbird in San Diego County is of one that stayed around the home of Frank and Betty Scheible in Carlsbad east of La Costa (J9) from 3 November to 3 December 1996 (C. L. Mann, A. E. Klovstad; McCaskie and San Miguel 1999). Abundant flowers of the Cape honeysuckle sustained the bird. The Scheibles graciously opened their home to the crowds of eager birders from throughout California who arrived to see this cooperative visitor.



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

Taxonomy: Though there are no specimens of the Violet-crowned Hummingbird from California, photographs strongly suggest the greenish-tailed northern subspecies *A. v. ellioti* (Berlepsch, 1889).