

# Broad-billed Hummingbird:

## An Unlikely New Addition to the Illinois List

By H. David Bohlen

On 7 November 1996 Myrna Deaton, Dan Kassebaum, Vernon Kleen, and I drove to western Peoria County to identify a hummingbird attending a feeder. Kleen had received information about an unusual hummingbird there, but we had no other details. We speculated that it was probably a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilocus colubris*) or at most a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). Shortly after sunrise on a rather cold day we drove to

the western part of the small town of Trivoli where we found the only wooded edge. The house with the feeder was on the south side of Route 116 and the feeder was on the home's south side. The feeder's owner, and our host, was Viola Gronewold.

Soon after we had set up our scopes, the hummingbird flew in. It looked large for a Ruby-throat and we noted the obvious orange on the lower mandible. We observed the

bird dart in and out of the feeding area a few times and sit in a bare tree, noticing the dark face patch with white line behind it and the bluish-green central tail feathers. Kassebaum opened the National Geographic Field Guide and together we eliminated everything except a female Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*). Even equally unlikely candidates like White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocaris lucotis*) did not fit. We were astounded!



*Broad-billed Hummingbird, First State Record, Trivoli, Peoria Co. 9 Nov. 1996. Photos by Dennis Oehmke.*