



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

We had not obtained a good look at the tail, so we put up the mist net that Kleen brought. The hummingbird eluded the net several times, so we readjusted the net position. The bird flew up to the net, hesitated, and finally flew in. Once in the hand, Kleen took several measurements and Deaton took photographs of different angles. The outer left tail feather was then plucked and deposited in the Illinois State Museum (collection # 660432). In the hand, the thick band of blue in the tail indicated this was indeed a rare hummingbird.

After checking the literature, the only other species similar to the Broad-billed is the closely related Dusky Hummingbird (*Cynanthus sordidus*), which is endemic to southwest Mexico (see Howell and Webb 1995). This species is duller on the back and on the central tail feathers than the Broad-billed.

The following account was taken from my field notes, Deaton's photographs of the bird in the hand, and Dennis Oehmke's photographs of the bird in the field on 14 November 1996. At first observation, the hummingbird looked larger than a Ruby-throat, but the actual over all length was not determined. The bill formed a slight but noticeable arch and looked long (from the forehead it

was 23 mm). The bill was flattened somewhat in the area around the nostrils (width at base 4 mm), and there was a bit of orange color around the nostrils in the otherwise brown upper mandible. The lower mandible was mostly orange; the distal quarter was dark. The forehead to about the crown was grayish (measurement was 13 mm). The hind crown, nape, neck sides, back, upper tail coverts, wing coverts, and sides were bronzy green. The eye was dark. The mouth lining was orange. There was a dark area (3.5 mm widest part of blackish eye stripe) below the eye (auriculars) that was gray black. Behind the eye was a posterior white line running alongside the blackish auriculars. This white sometimes appeared as just a white spot behind the eye, turning gray above the eye.

The underparts were gray, except around the legs, where they were fairly bright white. These sometimes appeared as little puffs of white in the gray. The undertail coverts were gray. The tarsi were dark brown. The wing length was 56 mm. The wings looked black to dark gray. When the bird perched, occasionally some white feathers (from the flanks?) showed over the wing tops. The dorsal central tail feathers were bluish-green. This character was seen on the closed tail. The tail length was 30 mm. From above, the remainder of the tail on the upper half was greenish fading to gray. The lower half was blue with white on the three outer tail feathers. The white on the outer tail feather from the vane measured 7 mm. There was much less white on the next inner

tail feather and the third feather had just small white spots on the tip. From underneath, there was a nice broad band of blue along the bottom of the tail with the white spots noted above (See Figure 1).

The hummingbird gave a Ruby-crowned Kinglet-like call, a short series of chips. It also occasionally uttered a single note. This southwestern hummingbird endured temperatures as low as 15° F on 14 November 1996, with an average low for the first 23 days of November of 28.7° F and an average high of 42.1° F (Peoria airport

temperatures).

Most active Illinois birders observed the bird as it regularly visited the Gronewold feeder. It sat in the trellis or flew to the south edge of the yard near woods. Sometimes the bird



Figure 1: Left outer tail feather, ventral side from Broad-billed Hummingbird. (3x)