

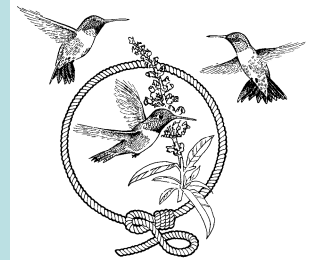
# Chasing Hummingbirds Across Texas



Where Would I Go, In Texas, If I  
Wanted To See Hummingbirds...

Mark Klym

Texas Hummingbird Roundup



# Texas Has a Wealth of Hummingbird Diversity

- Eighteen species have been recorded in the state
- No one county is limited to one species of hummingbird.



Anna's Hummingbird

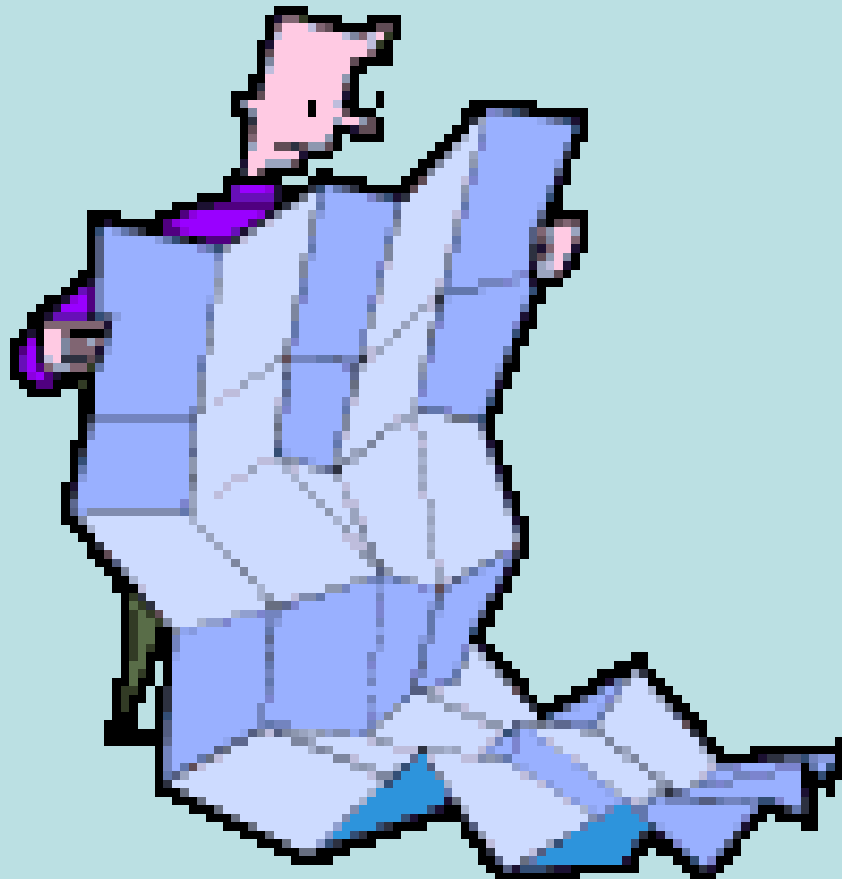
# But...

- Some species are much more likely in some regions of the state than in others



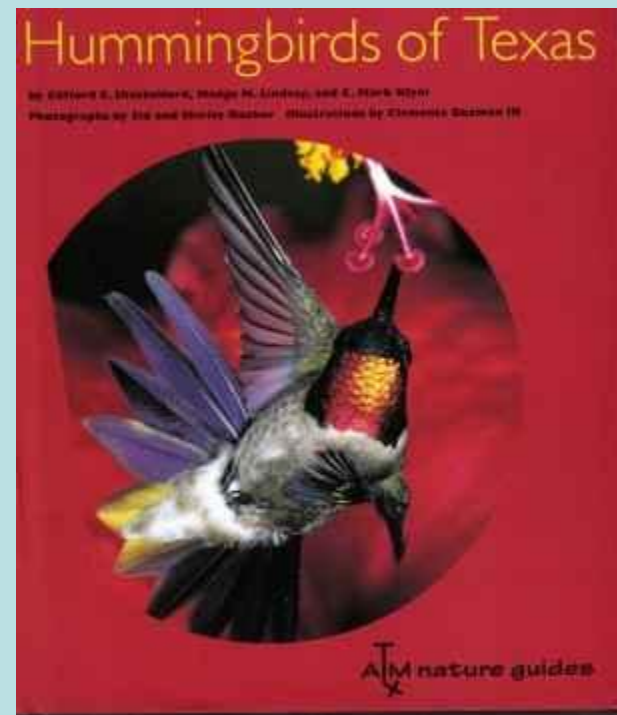
Berylline Hummingbird –  
Brewster County

# So Where Would I Go



# Use the Tools of the Trade

- Good field guides
  - Williamson
  - Howell
- Good books about Texas Hummingbirds
- Regional field checklists
- Regional rare bird alerts.



# Ruby-throated Hummingbird

- East Texas during the nesting season
  - Has been recorded as far west as Arizona
- Central and Upper coast during migration
  - In both cases I am looking for shelter



# Ruby-throated Hummingbird

- Most likely April through September
- Can stay year round especially closer to the coast



# Identification Tips – Ruby-throated

- Bill is short and stout
- Back is yellow green
- Tail is long, sticking out past the tip of the wings





# Ruby-throated Hummingbird



# Black-chinned Hummingbird

- Edwards plateau and west.
  - Has been recorded east in coastal states
  - Looking for thick brush and shelter



# Black-chinned Hummingbird

- Most numerous  
March through  
October
  - Can stay all winter



# Identification Tips – Black-chinned



- Bill long and slender, slightly down curved
- Back gray green
- Tail does not protrude significantly beyond tip of wings.

# Black-chinned Hummingbird





# Buff-bellied Hummingbird

- South Texas and along the coast to about Victoria most of the year.
- Has been seen in summer as far north as Bastrop and Washington Counties
  - Another brush country bird.



# Buff-bellied Hummingbird

- Year round bird
- Winters further up the coast than breeding range.



# Identification Tips – Buff-bellied



- Bill straight, red with black tip
- Top half of bird deep green
- Tail and wings cinnamon
- Clicking call.



# Buff-bellied Hummingbird



# Rufous Hummingbird

- Mountains of west Texas during migration
- Well sheltered coastal areas during winter months
- Can be seen in any county of Texas
  - Associated with forests and trees



Photo by LeAnn Sharp

# Rufous Hummingbird

- Not recorded in June in Texas
  - Have one photograph from Cibolo in late May



Photo by LeAnn Sharp

# Identification Tip - Rufous



- Look for the red coloration – will always be red in tail and flanks.

# Rufous Hummingbird





# Broad-tailed Hummingbird

- West Texas mountains during migration.
  - Year round, somewhat more likely March through November
  - Somewhat more open area but still seeking shelter



# Identification Tips – Broad-tailed



- Red will appear on the bird in spots we do not find red on Ruby-throats
- HUGE round tail
- Wing trill

# Calliope Hummingbird

- West Texas during migration
  - Most numerous July through September
  - Areas with well developed shelter during winter months





# Identification Tips - Calliope

- Smallest bird in North America
- Short, straight bill
- Short tail
- Long wings.



# Magnificent Hummingbird

- Mountainous regions of west Texas
  - March through November but more likely April through September
  - Rocky slopes with pine forests nearby



# Identification Tip - Magnificent



- Long sleek bird of solid color from top of head to tail
- Extremely long bill
- May carry a “crest”

# Lucifer Hummingbird

- Lowland areas of west Texas
  - February through November but more likely Late May through early September
  - Looking for more open woods, clearings, dry brushy grassland.



# Identification Tip - Lucifer

- Short bird with large head
- Short wings
- Long forked tail folds to a point
- Black down-curved bill
- Look for the buffy tan belt





# Adult Female Lucifer Hummingbird



# Blue-throated Hummingbird

- Nesting in Chisos Mountains.
- Seen occasionally in Davis Mountains
  - Most common late April through mid August. Is seen March through early November
  - Cool shady canyons with forest habitat. Prefers middle to higher elevations.



# Blue-throated Hummingbird

- Largest Hummingbird in Texas
- Gray-green back, dark breast
- Large black tail with white tips
- Eye lines.



Photo by D. & M. Zimmerman



# Blue-throated Hummingbird Anomaly in Texas



# Anna's Hummingbird

- Semi desert areas of west and north Texas with overgrown fields and scattered trees
  - August to early May with peaks in September to December



# Identification Tips – Anna's



- Put on a red helmet but did not do up the straps.
- Put on his Sunday-go-to-meeting suit complete with black tails and vest then went out and rolled in the mud!

# There Are Some Birds That You Would Follow Based On Previous Records

- Watch for listings on lists like Texbirds
- Check rare bird alerts
- Share information with other birders



Juvenile White-eared Hummingbird  
Lubbock, TX

# Green Violet-ear

- Would expect it to be found in areas of thick canopy – forest, thicket locations
  - Hill Country records May through September





# Green Violet-ear Identification

- Tall, grass green bird with black tail and violet blue breast and ear patch.



# Green-breasted Mango

- No records of the bird north of the Nueces River except out of state
  - Most reliable locations are gardens with considerable cover in McAllen.
  - Scattered occurrences throughout the year



# Green-breasted Mango Identification

- Deep green bird with down-curved bill, throat dark emerald green extending onto the breast as a central stripe. Outer 3 to 4 rectrices violet purple.
- Female underparts white with dark vertical central line. Cinnamon brown may be present on chin.



Photo by Berlin Heck



# Broad-billed Hummingbird

- Widely scattered records across the state
  - Bird is associated with brushy woods, partial clearings and thickets in their traditional range
  - Scattered occurrences throughout the year



Photo by Leonardo Sonoqui

# Broad-billed Hummingbird Identification

- Red bill tipped in black with distinctly broad profile at the base. Sapphire blue gorget, emerald green breast. Whitish undertail coverts.



# White-eared Hummingbird

- Were very scattered sightings until this year
- As many as 10 sightings in west Texas this year
  - Associated with pine oak woods, mountain pine forests in traditional range



# White-eared Hummingbird Identification

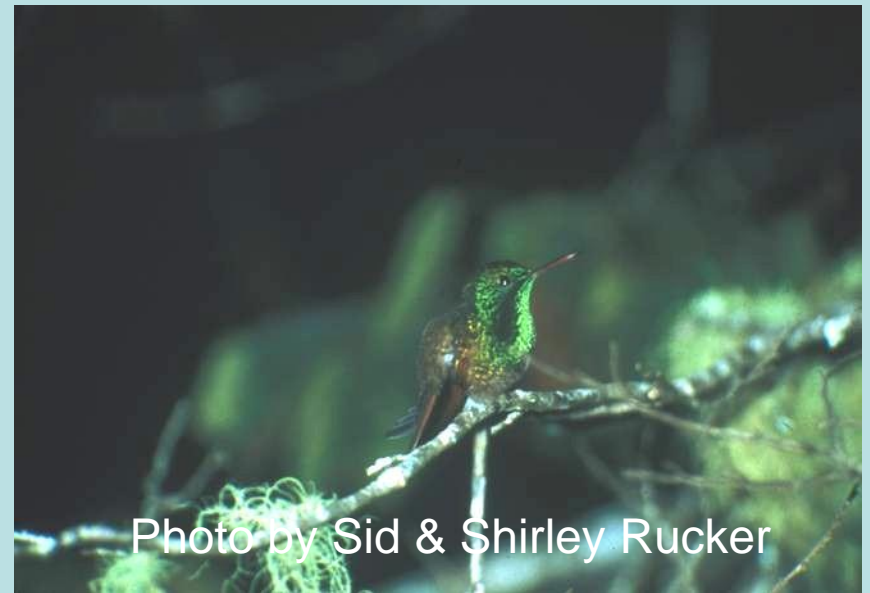
- Broad white band on “ear”. Male bold purple head. Female and juvenile head gray-green. Large black tail.



White-eared (Male)

# Berylline Hummingbird

- All confirmed Texas occurrences have been well west of the Pecos River
  - All occurrences have been summer events
  - Associated with scrubby woods and overgrown clearings.



# Berylline Hummingbird Identification

- Apple green to turquoise throat and breast. Broad band of cinnamon to rufous color on wings. Tail square to notched deep rufous with distinct violet sheen.





# Violet-crowned Hummingbird

- Most of the records are from west Texas
  - More open land like scrubby borders and partial clearings
  - Mostly winter occurrences, November through March



Photo by R. Curtis

# Identification Tips – Violet-crowned

- Slightly larger bird with a brown green back
- Red bill with a black tip
- Spotless white chest and gorget



# Costa's Hummingbird

- Scrubby thorn semi desert with scattered trees are associated with this bird in its traditional range
  - Scattered occurrences most months except January and February.



# Identification Tip – Costa's

- Put on a purple helmet and did up the straps
- Put on his Sunday-go-to-meeting suit with slightly less showy tails and stayed out of the mud!



# Allen's Hummingbird

- Coastal Texas has had a good number of these birds each of the last several years
  - Associated with scrubby woods and border areas.



# Identification Tip – Allen's

- Very emarginate feathers on the tail

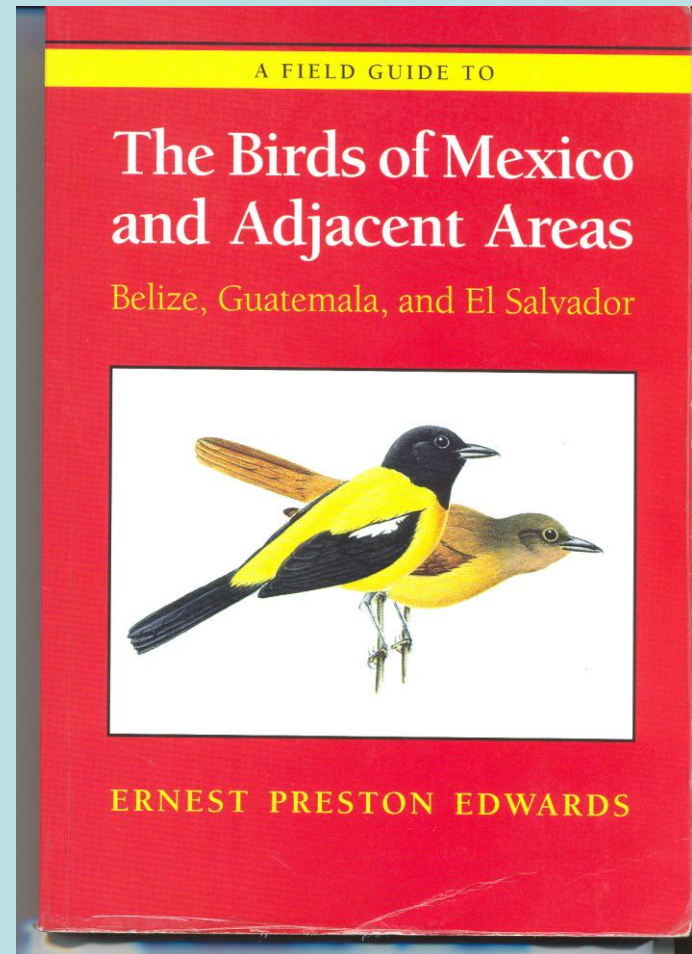


Photo by Rusty Trump



# There Are Other Species Reasonably Close to Texas

- Cinnamon Hummingbird, Bumblebee Hummingbird and Plain-capped Starthroat have been seen north of the Mexican border



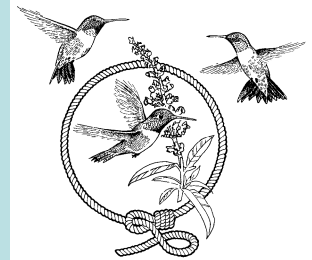
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# Show Your Support for Wildlife!



Help protect native nongame species like the Horned Lizard by buying a Horned Lizard license plate. The cost is only \$30 with \$22 going directly to benefit the conservation of wildlife diversity in Texas.

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