

FIRST RECORD OF A RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD IN CALIFORNIA

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On 15 May 1975 Ron Cole collected an adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) at Sagehen Creek Field Station, 11 km north of Truckee, Nevada County, California (39° 25'N, 120° 15'W). The bird was freeze-dried as a study specimen (WFB-972, Museum of Wildlife & Fisheries Biology, University of California, Davis). Because Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are not included in recent comprehensive publications on the occurrence of California birds (McCaskie et al. 1979, Garrett and Dunn 1981, Jones et al. 1981), or reported in the most recent reports of the California Bird Records Committee (Luther et al. 1983; Binford 1983, 1985), we conclude that this specimen represents the first record for the species in California.

This specimen was incidentally captured in a net set up to capture bats. It was captured about 20 m from Sagehen Creek in an opening between two groups of willows (*Salix*) in a grassy meadow. It flew into the net simultaneously with an adult male Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*; WFB-973). It was recorded in the field as a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but its identity was mistakenly changed by a technician to a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) when it was accessioned into the museum collection. It remained misidentified until December 1983, when we discovered the error.

This specimen has been examined and verified as a Ruby-throated Hummingbird by the authors and by Bruce Maxwell, Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett. It was photographed, examined and compared to eight other adult male *A. colubris* by Garrett at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Measurements and descriptions are as follows (K. Garrett pers. comm.): culmen (chord of exposed culmen) = 14.7 mm; wing = 41 mm; tail = 24 mm; depth of tail notch (difference between longest outer and shortest central rectrix) = 5 mm. The chin (extending down about 3 mm from the base of the mandible) is velvety black, with absolutely no iridescence evident at any angle; this black area extends back through and below the eye and flares out somewhat on the auriculars. [We add that the color of the throat is red-orange, iridescent, and extends down from the chin approximately 10 mm.] The rectrices completely lack rufous tones, even on the outermost pair. The color of the upperparts is a deep forest green, exactly the color shown by *A. colubris* skins and quite different from the color of *S. platycercus*. The rectrices are blackish, rather narrow, and form a distinct notch.

Our thanks to Bruce Maxwell, Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett for examining and verifying the species as *A. colubris*, and to Daniel W. Anderson for reviewing a draft of this note.

LITERATURE CITED

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Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Sketch by Narca Moore-Craig