

LEUCISTIC RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD
NEAR BYRAM, MISSISSIPPI

M.V. Duvic
1735 Wilhurst St.
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

On 3 August 1987, I photographed a white Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) at a hummingbird feeder at the rural home of Ms. Ted Hudson, near Byram, Hinds County, Mississippi (Figure 1). The bird was not completely white, having dark feathers along the leading edge of each wing, on the flanks, and on the side of the head. It also did not have pink eyes and its feet and bill seemed normally pigmented. Thus, this was not an albino, but was what is referred to as a leucistic individual.

The feeder was guarded by an adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird which chased off at least two normally plumaged female or immature Ruby-throats, but allowed the leucistic bird to feed. I observed several encounters between the white hummingbird and other Ruby-throats; sometimes the leucistic bird was the chaser, and at other times other Ruby-throats were.

Ms. Hudson indicated that the leucistic hummingbird had been coming to her feeders during late July and early August.

A.O. Gross (1965) compiled a list of records of albino birds in North America which included 304 species and 1847 individuals. Among these were records of 16 albino hummingbirds representing four species. No further details were provided, so we do not know how many of these were true albinos and how many might have been leucistic individuals such as this one.

Literature Cited

Gross, A.O. 1965. The incidence of albinism in North American birds. *Bird Banding* 36:67-71.



Figure 1. A leucistic Ruby-throated Hummingbird photographed near Byram, Mississippi, 3 August 1987.