

Nesting and defensive behavior of the Black-naped Tern in the Maldive Islands.—In the spring of 1964, while participating in the International Indian Ocean Expedition, I was able to observe the nesting of a pair of Black-naped Terns (*Sterna sumatrana*). The observations were made on Wala Island of South Nilandul atoll in the Maldive Islands, where the resident race is *S. sumatrana mathewsi*. Although Black-naped Terns are common in the Maldives, little is known of the location or time of their nesting in the area.

On 23 April 1964 the Research Vessel *Te Vega* anchored off Wala Island. I joined a group going ashore to make a preliminary exploration of the uninhabited island. I first saw the terns standing together on the protected part of the beach inside the atoll. They were less than 15 feet from the small waves moving in from the lagoon. The beach was sandy and was covered with rocks, bits of coral debris, sticks, and detritus. The heavy vegetation of the island stopped about 25 feet from the water's edge.

As I slowly walked toward the birds they did not fly but spread their wings and began opening and closing their beaks, sometimes emitting a series of high pitched cries. Each bird alternately faced me and turned its head toward its mate. When I stopped advancing and remained still, the birds folded their wings but continued to watch me. As I drew to within 30 feet of the birds, they flew into the air and began circling and diving, sometimes briefly hovering just over my head. I then discovered a single egg among the small stones on the beach. When I walked away the parent birds returned and stood over the egg. My moving toward them a second time initiated a response similar to the one described above.

I had no opportunity to observe the birds further and saw no other nesting birds in the Maldive Islands in the time I was there, March and April, 1964.—ROBERT A. WALLACE, *Department of Biology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.*

Hummingbird survives through December in North Carolina.—Florida and southern Alabama constitute the northern portion of the regular winter range of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris* (A.O.U. Check-list of North American birds, fifth edit., 1957), but there is a published record of an individual captured in a greenhouse in Raleigh, North Carolina, in December, 1934 (Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley, *Birds of North Carolina*, State Mus. Div. North Carolina Dept. Agric., Raleigh, 1959; see p. 224). The present paper reports on a second Ruby-throated Hummingbird recorded in North Carolina in December.

A hummingbird was observed daily from 3 December 1963 to 3 January 1964 in a garden at the residence of the junior author at Fayetteville, North Carolina. On several occasions the bird was observed in good light at distances of less than 30 feet with 7×35 binoculars. We identified it as a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird. It was iridescent green above (slightly darker on the crown) and dusky gray below (slightly darker at the malar region), and had white-tipped outer rectrices. There was no trace of cinnamon-rufous on the tail coverts or flanks, eliminating the possibility that the bird was a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*); nor were there any feathers tipped with grayish-buff on the dorsal aspect, ruling out identification as a young male Ruby-throat.

This hummingbird was first seen feeding at the open blossoms of both pink and white empress camellias (*Camellia japonica*) following a nighttime low temperature of 24° F. That day we placed hummingbird feeders containing sugar syrup in the shrubbery, and by the next morning the bird had discovered them.

December, 1963, was the coldest December on record locally, temperatures below freezing being recorded on 28 nights and below 20° F on 7 consecutive nights (15–21 December); the daytime maximum was less than 40° F on 8 days. The coldest day was 20 December, when the high temperature was 35° F and the low was 14° F. Rain or sleet fell on 12 days.

This extended cold withered the camellia blossoms, and in the coldest periods, the bird appeared to become almost totally dependent on the sugar syrup; visits to the feeding tubes were more frequent and the bird spent a great deal of time in nearby shrubbery.

Early in its sojourn, the hummingbird fed primarily around 0830, 1200, and 1600 hours. With the onset of colder weather and some competition at the feeders from Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*), the hummingbird fed earlier, at 0730, and later, at 1700, and more frequently in the intervening hours. It never perched while feeding, but hovered before the vials (several of which were placed under the overhang of the garage where they were protected from the rain).

On cold, wet days the hummingbird could be observed in a leafy cherry laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*), where it was seen to shiver and to ruffle its plumage. On sunny days it frequently perched in the open, on a dogwood (*Cornus florida*) or on a high branch of a leafless 70-foot oak tree, where it preened and ruffled its feathers; preening was occasionally interrupted by short flights, possibly to catch small insects.

At no time did the bird appear to be weak or sick; even on the coldest days its plumage was sleek and in good repair and its flight strong and sure.

We were never able to determine where the hummingbird roosted at night. It was last seen the morning of 3 January 1964, a sunny, balmy day on which the temperature reached 66° F.—DORIS C. HAUSER, 309 Sylvan Road, Fayetteville, North Carolina, and MRS. NEILL CURRIE, JR., 1104 Brook Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Occurrence of *Collyriclum faba* (Trematoda) in a Varied Thrush with a note on a single bird's internal parasites.—A Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) was obtained on 18 November 1960, near Woods Creek, Benton County, Oregon. The bird was infected with 14 mature *Collyriclum faba*. The flukes were in pairs, in subcutaneous cysts adjacent to the anus. The paired flukes were not equal in size. The bird was also parasitized by the following: 10 *Brachylaime pellucidum* in the small intestine, 12 *Lutztrema monenteron* in the liver and gall bladder, 25 *Leucochloridium* sp. in the cloaca, and 13 tapeworms and 1 Acanthocephalan in the small intestine. The bird was taken alive in a mist net and appeared to be in good condition.

A considerable number of other birds, including 10 Varied Thrushes, were collected in the same area over a two-year period but none was infected with *C. faba*. This fluke was recorded west of the Great Plains for the first time by McNeil (*Auk*, 77: 355, 1960). The host was a Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) obtained in Asotin County, Washington. McNeil hoped his report would stimulate collectors to examine the anal region of birds for this fluke because little is known about its life cycle and distribution. I here make an additional appeal to those banding birds to feel along the breast to the area around the anus for the cysts. The cysts should be about the size of small peas and are easily felt with the finger tips.—ALBERT G. CANARIS, *Biology Department, West Virginia University, Morgantown (on leave to Egerton College, Njoro, Kenya).*