

carolinensis). Miss McClellan said it had been taken in Indianapolis and promised to look up the record. Later she informed me it was brought to her by one of her pupils in April or May, 1908. It was found dead opposite public school No. 10 at the old Medical School building. Evidently it had flown against the brick wall. It was perfectly fresh when brought to her. She made a skin of it and put it in their collection of birds.

This is the first record of this bird from Indiana, verified by a specimen, and the farthest northern point in the state from which it has been reported. April 20, 1878, Robert Ridgway and William Brewster identified this species on the Indiana side of the Wabash River in Knox County but did not take a specimen. The former says: "I have both seen the Chuck-wills-widow, and frequently heard its unmistakable note in Knox County, Ind., immediately opposite Mt. Carmel" (Ill.).¹ I am informed by Mr. Roy Chansler that he has at different times in recent years heard the distinctive note of this bird in Knox County.—AMOS W. BUTLER, *Indianapolis, Indiana*.

The Rufus Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) in South Carolina.

—One of the many pleasing results of the recent A. O. U. meeting in Charleston, S. C., was the bringing out of the fact that a new bird had been added to South Carolina's avifauna many years ago, the identity of which had, for a long time, been overlooked.

Several members were looking over the study collection of skins one morning in the preparation room of the Museum, when Mr. J. H. Riley called the attention of a little group to the peculiar manner in which the skin of a Hummingbird had been preserved. It was flattened out under a small piece of glass, bound around with strips of passe partout. I recall that Messrs. Swarth, Fleming, Maillard and myself were the ones addressed. I recognized the specimen immediately, having seen it in the collection for many years, and mentioned the fact that it was so preserved because of the very tender condition of the skin when the bird was taken. My remark that the bird had been taken locally caused some surprise among these gentlemen, who saw at once that it was not a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), although it was labelled as such on the reverse of the mounting card, and had been accepted as such for many years. I asked Mr. Riley to take it to Washington with him and identify it, which he did, writing me that the bird was a Rufus Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). As far as we have been able to ascertain, this is the sole record for this western species in the East.

The circumstances are as follows: On December 18, 1909, the bird was taken in the yard of a Charleston dwelling by Mr. Edward A. Hyer, who, realizing the value of a Hummingbird taken in South Carolina during the winter, took it to the Charleston Museum at once. It was skinned by Mr. B. Rhett Chamberlain, and because of the very fragile condition of

¹ Butler, *Birds of Ind.* 1897, pp. 846-847.

the skin, was preserved as described above. It was identified at the time by all who saw it as a Ruby-throat. Indeed, the question of its being anything else never entered anyone's mind. Since that time, it has lain in the Museum's study collection and has been seen by several ornithologists. When I joined the staff some years ago, I knew of the bird, of course, but that it was anything else than the label indicated, did not cross my mind. My experience with Hummingbirds other than the Ruby-throat is nil, and but for the sharp eyes of Mr. Riley, the bird would no doubt have remained for many more years under its wrong identification. This specimen has been twice recorded as a Ruby-throat, once in the Charleston Museum 'Bulletin,' vol. VI, 1910, p. 10, and once in Wayne's 'Birds of South Carolina,' as an editorial footnote on page 98.

When the correct details were ascertained I at once wrote Mr. Hyer, who is with the Kent Scientific Museum of Grand Rapids, Mich., telling him of it, and he has asked me to record the specimen.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Wintering in Northern Florida.—January 17, 1929, I observed a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) feeding among the blooms of the single pink Japonica trees in our front yard in Tallahassee, Florida. The bird was seen again on the 19th and 26th, possibly the same individual. I am convinced that the species winters in northern Florida in small numbers. At this season several kinds of plants and shrubs are in full bloom, especially the Japonicas which furnish ample insect and other food for those of the Hummingbirds that are hardy enough to remain in a section visited occasionally in winter by sufficient cold to produce very substantial crusts of ice on exposed pools and the like. A Hummingbird is reported to have been seen in Pensacola, Florida, in the same latitude as Tallahassee, on February 20, 1927 (Weston—Bird-Lore, XXIX, 199). These two observations extend the winter range of the Hummingbird in Florida considerably farther north than any previous record.—ROBERT W. WILLIAMS, *Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

Possible Reasoning Power in a Phoebe.—The following occurrence is not a recent observation, but one that happened in my boyhood and has remained vividly in my memory. I regret that I had not formed the habit of recording notes at the time. I am not even sure of the year in which it occurred, though it was probably between 1900 and 1904, but memory of events in our youth is often clearer, stronger and more accurate than memory of much more recent events. About the time that this observation was made I read somewhere a warning against assuming too readily that birds and animals had reasoning power when they did things that seemed remarkable. This led me to note the event in this case carefully and ponder over it, so that I do not doubt that the facts as I remember them are essentially as they occurred.