

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 Nilandu 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.