

woods along the beaches by October 9, and remained so throughout the following winter. In fact, in this locality it proved to be a much more common bird in winter than in summer. Numerous specimens were taken during the winter months but few toward spring, as at this latter season they become so fat as to be difficult of preparation.

The fact that this bird winters commonly at the southern end of the Alexander Archipelago must necessarily modify Swarth's definition of its winter habitat in Oregon and northern California.—GEORGE WILLET, *Wrangell, Alaska, November 1, 1920.*

The Nuptial Flight of the Allen Hummingbird.—The description of the nuptial flight of the Anna Hummingbird (Hunt, CONDOR, xxii, p. 109) has prompted me to offer an account of the mating antics of the Allen Hummingbird.

On the afternoon of April 16, 1920, I was walking through the hills back of the Claremont Club golf links when I was brought to a halt by a rather prolonged buzzing sound, very penetrating and metallic in quality, somewhat similar to the sound produced by drawing a fine-grained file over the edge of a piece of sheet steel with a sudden jerk. Looking in the direction of the sound I saw poised in the air about twenty-five feet from the ground, a male Allen Hummingbird (*Selasphorus aleni*), uttering his commonly heard mouse-like squeaks. Then followed the performance of the nuptial flight, similar to that of the Anna Hummingbird, though the path described in the air was somewhat different. He "rocked" back and forth over the female, which was perched on a twig of a low poison oak (*Rhus diversiloba*), describing a semi-circle about twenty-five feet in diameter. There was a pause at each end of the arc, and before the pause he spread his tail and shook his whole body so violently that I wondered how his feathers remained fast. During this time he continued uttering the characteristic squeaks. After several of these semi-circles were described he began his climb to a height of about seventy-five feet; and then came the "high dive". He swooped down with the speed of a comet, and on passing over the female gave the low-pitched but resonant buzzing sound which had first attracted my attention; then he curved upward and came to a pause about twenty-five feet in the air, where I had first seen him. The sound emitted on passing over the female was of a second or more in duration, and differed greatly from the instantaneous, metallic *clink* of the Anna Hummingbird.

Following the accompanying diagram in which X represents the female, he started at A, describing the arc AB with the violent shaking just before arriving at B. After a short pause at B (one or two seconds) he returned to C, repeating the shaking just before arriving, and again pausing. This much of the performance he usually repeated one or more times, thus describing several semi-circles from A to B and from B to C. The last time from C, instead of pausing he continued upward with a slow, heavy flight, describing spirals or undulations until he reached the top at D, when, without pause, he made the downward swoop, sometimes bringing up at E to recommence the whole performance, and at other times darting off to perch a few yards distant for awhile and then return.

Mr. Hunt states (*loc. cit.*) that he does not know whether the Anna Hummingbird adheres rigidly to the evolutions described or whether it varies them. I had the good fortune on the morning of March 15, 1920, at Washington Park, Alameda, to witness the nuptial flight of this bird and it was slightly different from his description. My bird, in making the long dive from *c* to *d* (fig. 27, *loc. cit.*) made a sudden jump of about six feet to the left at a point about opposite *a*, and then continued his downward swoop to *d*. Otherwise this performance was identical with that described by Mr. Hunt.—FRANK N. BASSETT, *Alameda, California, September 2, 1920.*

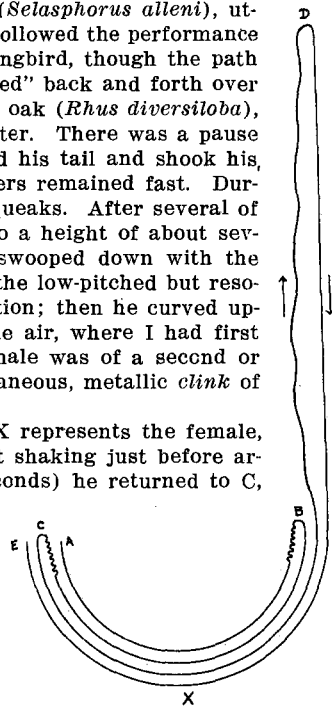


Fig. 8. DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATING THE NUPTIAL FLIGHT OF THE MALE ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD.

A Unique Visitor.—On the tenth day of October, nineteen hundred and twenty, at one o'clock in the afternoon, after two days of intermittent showers—some heavy, some light—a beautiful young gull landed on the woodpile in back of our cottage, which is