

A New Hummingbird Hybrid, *Calypte anna* × *Stellula calliope*.—Hybridization under natural conditions of life is a fact which has already been noticed as occurring between species in many families of birds and especially among Paradiseidae and Trochilidae, the brilliant and varied coloring of which permits of easily detecting the external evidences of hybridism in the individuals. I have also called attention ("L'Oiseau," 1929, p. 340) to the fact that such cases of hybridization in nature may only be presumed, as based on nothing else than specimens showing in their morphology exactly intermediate characters between two well-known different species, but that no critical experiment in confinement, especially for hummingbirds, is likely ever to prove these assertions.

Considering the so-called hybrid specimens in the Trochilidae, California is a country from which have already been listed four kinds of hybridization between species living in that part of North America (Thayer and Bangs, Auk, 1907, p. 313), namely:

Calypte anna × *Archilochus alexandri* (= *Trochilus violajugulum* Jeffries)
Calypte anna × *Selasphorus alleni* (= *Selasphorus floresii* Gould)
Calypte costae × *Archilochus alexandri*
Selasphorus rufus × *Stellula calliope*

Through the kindness of my colleague, Dr. J. Grinnell, I am able to describe here a fifth kind of California hybrid hummer, the example of which (no. 47983, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was shot by Mr. C. C. Lamb at Vallecitos, 7500 feet altitude, Sierra San Pedro Martir, Lower California, Mexico, June 19, 1926, and which exhibits all the external characters of an adult male hybrid of:

Calypte anna × *Stellula calliope*

Description.—Forehead covered with brilliant metallic rosy-lilac feathers similar to those of the head of *Calypte anna*, but covering not more than the fore part of the vertex and terminating in a most irregular border, unlike the large, regular cap of *Calypte*. The throat very brightly shining rosy-purple, rather similar to that of *Calypte*, but still deeper purplish with lilac reflections, and with the lateral feathers much narrower and elongated, recalling those of *Stellula calliope*. Hind part of the vertex and upper parts of the body uniform metallic green; underparts much lighter gray than in *Calypte*, nearly whitish on the lower throat and under tail-coverts, darker and largely mixed with metallic green on the flanks. Tail emarginate and only little shorter comparatively than in *Calypte*, but the median rectrices shaped as in *Stellula* and only faintly tinged with bronzy-green; all rectrices dark gray, the four median ones bordered on each side at the base with a narrow rufous streak, as in *Stellula*, the two outer rectrices shorter and narrower than those of the next pair and slightly incurved, like those of both *Calypte* and *Stellula*. Bill straight.

Length.—Culmen, 16 mm.; wing, 45; tail, 28.

This bird, apparently fully adult, as may be presumed from the extreme shining color of the throat, more brilliant even than in most specimens of *Calypte anna* examined, is exactly intermediate as to size between *Calypte anna* and *Stellula calliope*, two species greatly differing one from the other in this respect. The dominating characters seem, on first sight, to be those of *Calypte*, especially the brilliant lilac metallic fore head; but it differs from this species by the lesser extent of this color on the head, the lengthened lateral feathers of the throat, the much lighter color of the underparts, the shape and the color of the median rectrices—all characters which recall the same parts in *Stellula calliope*. As both species may occur together at breeding time in the mountains of California, the casual crossing between them is not improbable, although the great difference of size may render rather abnormal such an occurrence. In its morphological characters, the bird here described can be considered perhaps as a little closer to *Calypte* than to *Stellula*.—J. BERLIOZ, *Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, March 25, 1930.*