

Broad-tailed Hummingbird Attracted to Food of the Red-naped Sapsucker.—Twice, within less than a minute, I watched a sapsucker drive a hummingbird away from the trunk of a large mountain birch (*Betula fontinalis*). A few seconds after its second retreat the hummer was back, but my effort to obtain both birds with a single shot was only half successful; the hummer darted away. Two minutes and 40 seconds later, however, it reappeared and I was able to collect it—a thing I did because the dusk (7:45 p.m. on August 6, 1938) made sight identification uncertain and I wished to identify the birds accurately. They proved to be a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus platycercus*) and an immature Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*). The place was alongside Lehman Creek, at 7800 feet altitude, in the Snake Mountains of White Pine County, Nevada.

Investigation revealed both old and new series of sapsucker-made perforations in the birch bark 12 feet above the ground, where the trunk was 254 millimeters in circumference. The recently drilled holes were above the older holes, and it was in these newer lesions only that I detected a slight amount of sap. This sap I supposed was attractive as food to the hummingbird. Of flowers in bloom nearby which might have occupied the hummingbird's attention I noted just two, red Indian paint brush and blue monkshood.—E. RAYMOND HALL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, August 25, 1938.*

California Jays Catch Flies.—Early on the morning of April 6, 1938, two California Jays (*Aphelocoma californica*) were observed actively moving about the sunny and still dewy lawn of a Berkeley residence. Close observation disclosed that the jays were pursuing house flies which were fairly numerous, both flying above the grass and settled on it. A jay would hop around with head held high until a suitable fly was seen. Then ensued a short dash, usually of two feet or less but sometimes as long as four, with the head held low and extended forward. This dash, which consisted of a series of quick hops, usually ended with a final long hop, the abrupt raising of the tail, and the coincident successful capture of the fly. As nearly as could be seen the flies usually were deftly snatched before they flew, but occasionally they were caught in the air. Such a cursory observation is of significance as an indication of the adaptability of this bird to conditions in densely settled areas.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 13, 1938.*

Records of Allen and Rufous Hummingbirds in the Sierra Nevada, California.—Frequently arguments arise over field identifications of hummingbirds which occur in summer at high elevations (8,000 to 11,000 feet) in the Sierra Nevada of California. Some observers claim that these birds are *Selasphorus rufus*, and others identify them as *S. alleni*. Many seasons' work in this area has convinced me that as regards these two species field or sight identifications are distinctly difficult and unreliable. Thus, at 11,000 feet elevation at Moose Lake in Sequoia National Park, on June 24, 1934, I collected an adult male hummingbird that had been watched in good light under most favorable conditions for observation. One observer insisted it was *rufus* and I was sure it was *alleni*. The bird (adult male, no. 9111, collection of Joseph S. Dixon and William B. Richardson) proved to be *alleni*, according to Dr. J. Grinnell who recently examined it.

I have shot three other male Allen Hummingbirds in early summer in the Sierra Nevada, and it has been my experience that most of the adult males found early in the season, from June 20 to July 20, at high altitudes in the Sierra Nevada are *alleni*. Some Rufous Hummingbirds come down the coast and invade this territory in late summer, usually in August.—JOSEPH S. DIXON, *National Park Service, San Francisco, California, October 1, 1938.*