

in 1940, has increased considerably since 1941. The East Kootenay region of British Columbia was not known definitely to be a breeding area for this species until David A. Munro found a brood in 1949. Possibly records from both of these regions indicate relatively new breeding areas for this species.

Ring-necked Ducks are difficult to identify in summer. The males when in eclipse plumage lack the characteristic markings that make identification in winter and spring easy. The light ring behind the dark-tipped bill, which is quite obvious in winter and spring, was not evident on the young collected nor on the adults observed. Thus, in the field, it is difficult to distinguish female and young Ring-necked Ducks from Scaups in the summer months. The gray speculum of the Ring-necked Duck and the white speculum on the Scaup, however, are good identification characters at close range, or if the birds can be made to fly. Obviously this is of no value when the wing feathers are molted or when young are less than two-thirds grown. For the most part, Scaup found breeding in Washington were in the scabland lakes of the Columbia Plateau in relatively open country. Thus, the breeding ranges of the two species do not overlap greatly except possibly in the yellow pine zone in Spokane County.

—CHARLES F. YOCOM, *State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington, May 10, 1950.*

An Anna Hummingbird Caught in a Spider Web.—On June 7, 1950, Charles E. Shaw of the San Diego Zoo's Department of Reptiles summoned staff members to witness a remarkable spectacle in a landscaped area directly behind the reptile house: An immature male Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) had become entangled in the web of an orb-weaver spider.

The bird was suspended by the left wing from a point that was nearly the center of a horizontal span of web measuring approximately nine feet from end to end and at a height of approximately

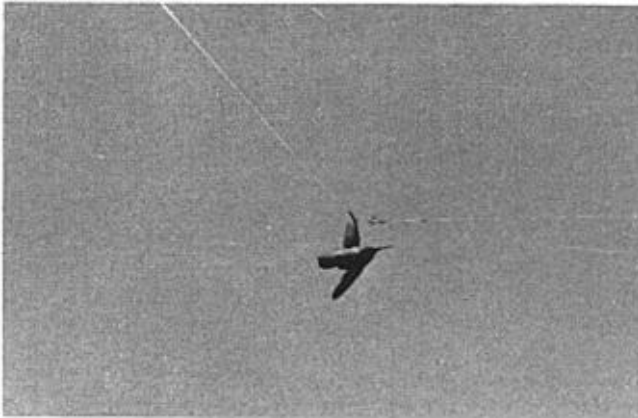


Fig. 1. Anna Hummingbird caught by a spider-web strand. Photograph taken by Jordan S. Roux.

seven and a half feet from the ground. Six diverging strands at one end of the span remained attached to the trunk of a Queen Palm, while the web was attached at the other end to a frond of a Burmese Windmill Palm by only a single strand. Whatever additional points of attachment may previously have existed had been torn loose by the bird's thrashing.

In an attempt to free itself, the bird, using the free right wing, often flew in a swinging circular manner and in so doing further bound the primaries of the enmeshed wing in the web. During its struggle, it called frequently, attracting another Anna Hummingbird which hovered in the vegetation nearby. In one instance the flying hummer, which appeared to be a female, approached to within two feet of the trapped bird.

For more than forty minutes the bird attempted unsuccessfully to free itself. With each successive effort, it became only more firmly entangled and it showed increasing signs of exhaustion. It seemed most unlikely that the bird would be able to free itself; consequently, Shaw cut the web, unwound the portion that had become wrapped about the bird's primaries, and released the hummer.—KEN STOTT, JR., *Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, California, June 16, 1950.*