

FROM FIELD AND STUDY



Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) and eggs at Huntington Beach, Orange County, California, June 27, 1953. Photograph by Ray Quigley, Jr.

Territorial Behavior in Fall Migrant Rufous Hummingbirds.—In most species of North American hummingbirds, male territoriality centers on a feeding ground (Pitelka, Condor, 44, 1942: 189–204). To my knowledge little has been recorded on this activity in the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). From August 20 to 24, 1954, a group of six hummingbirds was observed in territorial behavior at a feeding ground in the Old Faithful area of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. Five of the birds were migrant Rufous Hummingbirds with terminal white spots on the three outer retrices and red throat patches of one or two feathers. From this it was presumed that the birds were immature males [adult females appear the same and might have been involved in part—Editor]. The sixth bird was much smaller, lacked the throat patch and had no trace of rufous. It was decided that this bird was a Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*).

The feeding area consisted of an irregular patch of *Linaria vulgaris* which extended for about fifty feet in a northeast-southwest line and varied from six to twenty feet in width. Five territories were already established when the birds were first observed. Each territory extended about six to eight feet along the northeast-southwest line and included the full width of the plant zone at that place.