

## BREEDING OF ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD (*SELASPHORUS SASIN SEDENTARIUS*) ON THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MAINLAND

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The Palos Verdes Peninsula, 36.7 km east of Santa Catalina Island, in Los Angeles Co., California, is in many ways a land-locked Channel Island. The flora on the peninsula includes many Channel Island endemics. Some avian species absent on the Channel Islands are also absent on Palos Verdes (Bradley, Western Birds, in press). Bradley (loc. cit.) also noted that the breeding Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) on the peninsula is referable to the Channel Island subspecies *sordida*. We document herein the subspecific and breeding status of the Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) on the peninsula as an additional contribution to the knowledge of the avifauna of this most interesting region.

The nominate migratory subspecies of the Allen's Hummingbird, *S. s. sasin*, breeds on the humid Pacific coast of California from the Oregon line south to Santa Barbara and Ventura counties (Grinnell and Miller, Pacific Coast Avifauna 27, 1944). The sedentary subspecies *sedentarius* has been known to breed only on some of the Channel Islands off the coast of southern California (Grinnell and Miller op. cit.). There are no previous breeding records for the Allen's Hummingbird south of Ventura County. On 2 June 1966 Wells noticed two fledgling Allen's Hummingbirds being fed by adults near San Pedro on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles, California (map in Wells et al., Auk 95:537-549, 1978). On 3 June 1966, G. Shumway Suffel saw a female feeding a juvenile at Pt. Fermin Park, on the peninsula. On 10 January 1967 Wells and Suffel found the first nests and young on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. That year *S. sasin* was found to be a common breeding bird on the peninsula.

Wells began a banding study of *S. sasin* in San Pedro on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in 1971. Marked birds held territories around feeders at her home throughout the year, revealing the sedentary nature of the population. Moreover, birds were found attending eggs and/or young all months of the year except for September and October. One bird was observed building on 29 October 1972 and young were subsequently observed in the nest in December.

Morphometrics of 13 males netted by Wells on the Palos Verdes Peninsula between 1 January 1971 and 7 August 1975 were compared with Channel Island *sedentarius* from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California. The resident population at Palos Verdes is clearly referable to the subspecies *sedentarius* (Table 1) in size and sedentary behavior. The founders probably colonized the mainland from nearby Santa Catalina Island. A voucher specimen (male, 85326) of *sedentarius* has been deposited in the Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California.

Stiles (Condor 74:25-32, 1972) reported taking a young male *sedentarius* along with ten immature *S. rufus* from a feeding assemblage in the central part of the Santa Monica Mountains, some 66.6 km from the Palos Verdes Peninsula, in early August. Whereas this individual may be an odd vagrant, it may also indicate some postbreeding dispersal. Evidence of such dispersal should be looked for by other investigators.

\*Deceased 21 April 1977.

Table 1. Morphometrics of Allen's Hummingbird subspecies, *Selasphorus s. sasin* and *S. s. sedentarius*. Values in parenthesis are means  $\pm$  one standard deviation

	N	Culmen (mm)	Wing (mm)	Weight (g)
<i>Selasphorus s. sasin</i> <sup>1</sup>	20	14.1-16.3 (15.5 $\pm$ 0.13)	36.8-38.8 (37.9 $\pm$ 0.13)	2.8-3.9 (3.3 $\pm$ 0.11) <sup>4</sup>
<i>Selasphorus s. sedentarius</i> <sup>2</sup>	10	17.9-20.3 (18.38 $\pm$ 1.01)	38.0-41.0 (39.5 $\pm$ 0.82)	3.2-3.9 (3.49 $\pm$ 0.25)
<i>Selasphorus s. sedentarius</i> <sup>3</sup>	13	17.0-18.8 (17.62 $\pm$ 0.58) <sup>**</sup>	38.0-39.5 (38.73 $\pm$ 0.49) <sup>**</sup>	3.2-3.81 (3.52 $\pm$ 0.24) <sup>*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> One-tailed t-test,  $p < 0.005$  when compared with nominate subspecies.

<sup>\*\*</sup> One-tailed t-test,  $p < 0.0005$  when compared with nominate subspecies.

(One-tailed t-tests were used to demonstrate that Palos Verdes Peninsula birds were larger than the nominate.)

<sup>1</sup> Data from Banks and Johnson (1961, Condor 63:3-28).

<sup>2</sup> Specimens from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.

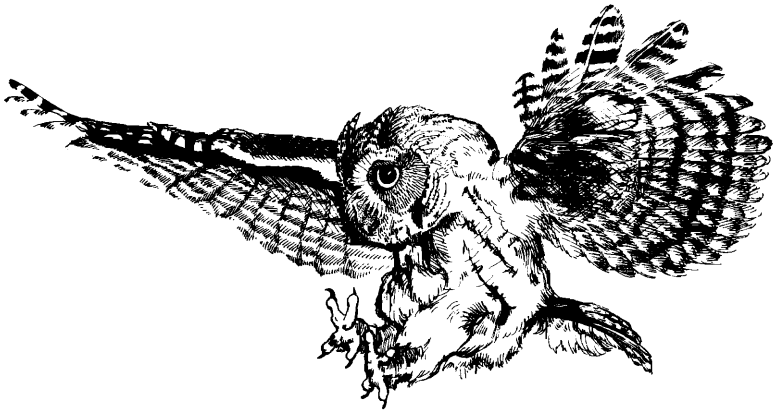
<sup>3</sup> Birds mist-netted, banded and released on Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co., California.

<sup>4</sup> Eleven specimens.

## NOTES

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Screech Owl

*Sketch by Narca Moore*