

**SECOND RECORD OF ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD
(*SELASPHORUS SASIN*) IN ALABAMA**

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Five years of banding wintering hummingbirds in the southeastern United States has resulted in the second documentation of an Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) in Alabama. The first known occurrence was a bird banded in Mobile on 3 December 1991 by the authors and was reported in *Alabama Birdlife*, Vol. 39, No. 1. Now a second Allen's has been captured, banded, and studied in detail in Prattville in south central Alabama.

Discovery of this second bird came on 9 January 1992 in response to a telephone call from Dorothy Baker of Prattville notifying us of a hummingbird at the residence of Mrs. Francis Finch, also of Prattville.

We arrived at Mrs. Finch's residence to find a very small *Selasphorus* feeding regularly at her hummingbird feeder and hawking insects over a compost pile. We first noticed the lustrous, freshly molted all-green back and head which contrasted sharply with the chestnut-rufous rump, sides and flanks. Interestingly, the bird had no tail feathers. A partially completed iridescent rufous gorget that included several feathers on the sides of the throat and the very short bill indicated the bird was probably a young male. Sexing and aging, however, would have to wait until the tail feathers had completed development.

Capturing and banding was accomplished without difficulty and after taking a series of photographs the following measurements were recorded: wing 39.93mm; exposed culmen 15.93mm; weight 3.40 grams. No tail measurement was possible since only pin feathers were present. The bird was then released.

On 26 January, Mr. Larry Locklin of Montgomery, who had been monitoring the bird's progress, notified us that the retrices were fully unsheathed. We returned and were able to recapture the bird promptly. The new set of retrices and the all-green back confirmed our preliminary identification that this bird was a second year male. More evidence to support this conclusion was the narrow outermost retrix #5 and the distinctive shape and color pattern of retrices #1 and #2. These features are well described in Kenn Kaufman's *Advanced Birding*. Gary Stiles' paper published in the *Condor* (74:25-32) also proved useful in verifying our identification. Because of the very short wing and exposed culmen, this individual could be identified as *Selasphorus sasin sasin*. It was much too small to be *Selasphorus sasin sedentarius*, the larger coastal race of Allen's.

Allen's Hummingbird breeds from northern coastal California southward to near Santa Barbara (Johnsgard 1983). Although closely related to the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), a regular winter visitor throughout the southeastern United States, Allen's is known to winter only rarely outside of Mexico. A few Allen's have been observed yearly in Louisiana by Nancy Newfield (per. com.), but east of the Mississippi River the species has been virtually unknown until

recently. Further study will probably show the species is present throughout the southeast, in winter but only in small numbers. Any hummingbird found after 15 November in the area covered by our federal and state permits, which include Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida and Tennessee should be banded and needs in-hand identification and documentation. **Robert R. Sargent and Martha B. Sargent**, 7570 Mac Hicks Road, Trussville, AL 35173.

**FLEDGLING ROBIN (*TURDUS MIGRATORIUS*)
KILLED BY BULLFROG (*RANA CATESBEIANA*)**

Billy F. Gilliland and Joann S. Gilliland

The nesting season here at Drummond Switch in eastern Walker County always brings with it the serendipitous. I'm sure the same is true for the rest of the state, but since we are privy mostly to what transpires here at home, our experiences are most often confined to our own yard.

This past spring and summer my husband Bill and I watched a pair of American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) as they built their first nest in an apple tree some distance from the house, the second in a pear tree down by the vegetable garden, and their third and final nest of the season in a tall loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) in the front yard near the water garden. Their nesting success was not great. The first was broken up by a predator of some sort, probably a cat since it was so close to the ground and quite exposed. One young, which paraded frequently around the yard, seemed to be the crop of the second effort. The third effort looked as though it would be a bit more successful since on the morning of 23 July 1993 both parents were seen busily feeding two fledglings in the front yard.

The following morning, as I am prone to do, I made my way out the front door to the water garden (located somewhat between the front and back yards), coffee in hand, to sit on the bridge over the garden and enjoy the birds, frogs and fishes that abound there. The water garden is approximately 30 inches deep at one end and runs to less than one inch deep at the other. Sundry trees, flowers and shrubs are planted and occur naturally around the garden. In the water itself grow various water lilies and bog plants. These provide good cover and some food for the frogs and fish, and at the shallow end the birds frequently come to drink and bathe.

As I readied myself to take a seat on the bridge, I noticed a rather large frog floating belly-up just under the surface of the water. Obviously it was dead, but the odd thing was that there appeared to be some object caught in its throat. A closer look disclosed the object to be a bird, also dead. Hardly daring to believe what I was seeing, I hastily summoned Bill who confirmed that this was a bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) with a bird hung in its throat and indeed both frog and bird were dead. Pictures were taken and we surmised that both had drowned when the frog attempted to swallow the fledgling. It appeared the bill of the bird had gotten caught