

First *Buteo jamaicensis kriderii* Collected in South Carolina

WILLIAM POST
Charleston Museum
360 Meeting Street
Charleston, S.C. 29403

ROXIE C. LAYBOURNE
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

The pale western form of the Red-tailed Hawk, known as "Kriger's" (*Buteo jamaicensis kriderii*; A.O.U. Checklist, 1957) was admitted to the South Carolina avifauna on the basis of a specimen seen in South Carolina, but collected in Georgia (Murphey, Observations on the Bird Life of the Middle Savannah Valley, 1937; Sprunt and Chamberlain, South Carolina Birdlife, 1949). The identity of this individual (ChM 2368) was apparently never confirmed by comparison with a series of specimens. Laybourne has now examined the skin and has confirmed the identity.

The second South Carolina sighting of *B. j. kriderii* was made by J.H. Dick in December 1952 at Dixie Plantation, Meggett, Charleston County. An excessively pale individual, probably the same bird, was seen at the edge of the same corn field each winter until 1967. Alexander Sprunt Jr. also saw this bird (unpubl. data, Charleston Museum files).

The third record for the state, and the first specimen actually collected there, is an immature female (ChM 2369) taken on 12 December 1978. It was apparently disabled by a vehicle along Hwy 61 near Middleton Gardens, Charleston County. Sally H. Murphy of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department captured it alive, but it died in captivity on 4 January 1979, whereupon it was placed in the freezer of the Charleston Museum. The specimen was prepared as a study skin by Post on 5 March 1983. The bird was very emaciated when it died (840 g), and it had had its right leg amputated about 2.5 cm below the heel.

We appreciate the contribution that Sally H. Murphy has made in salvaging this specimen.

Probable Rufous Hummingbird in Inland South Carolina

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.
331 Yadkin Drive
Raleigh, N.C. 27609

In late October 1977, Pamela Spencer called and informed me that she had a female or immature Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) at hummingbird feeders at her home several miles east of Pendleton, Anderson County, S.C. Because the bird visited the feeders only briefly during a given day, I decided not to attempt to see the bird at that time. I received secondhand word in mid-November that the hummingbird was still present, so I visited Mrs. Spencer's home on 14 and 15 November. Sidney Gauthreaux accompanied me on the latter date. I had little trouble observing the hummingbird on the two dates.

The bird was clearly not a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), because it had distinctive light rusty sides and belly. The basal portion of the rectrices was rufous in color. Gauthreaux and I were aware of the remote possibility of Allen's

Hummingbird (*S. sasin*), which has never been recorded east of Louisiana. Allen's is practically identical to Rufous in female or immature plumage, except for narrower and more sharply pointed outer tail feathers than on Rufous. The outer tail feathers seemed the same size and shape as most other rectrices and did not appear slender.

The hummingbird was first noted by Mrs. Spencer on 20 October, but the last date observed is not known. It seems highly likely that the bird was indeed a Rufous, and there are a large number of confirmed records for this species in the eastern United States (Conway and Drennan, *Amer. Birds* 33:130-132, 1979). Nonetheless, it is best to call the bird a "probable Rufous Hummingbird."

The only confirmed Rufous for the Carolinas is a specimen from Charleston, S.C., on 18 December 1909 (*Auk* 46:237-238). Sight records of probable Rufous—clearly *Selasphorus* as opposed to *Archilochus*—are from Raleigh, N.C., 2 to 5 November 1976 (Hader and Howard, *Chat* 41:70-71); Charleston on 24 January 1981 (*Chat* 45:81); and two birds near Hayesville, N.C., from 17 October to 11 December 1981 (unpublished). All records for the Carolinas involve females or immatures. The two birds at Hayesville were photographed; full descriptions of the birds plus the photos have been sent to the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History, but the descriptions or photos have not yet been published.

Certainly, anyone who observes a hummingbird in the Carolinas with rusty color on the sides, belly, or tail should write a detailed account for the General Field Notes in *Chat*. Much remains to be learned about the identities of hummingbirds not in adult male plumage, and the Rufous is not yet on the Official List for North Carolina.

Cavity Tree Killed by Red-cockaded Woodpeckers

JEROME A. JACKSON

Department of Biological Sciences

Mississippi State University

Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) is known for its obligate use of living pines as cavity trees and for its excavation of resin wells and a plate around the cavity entrance (Wayne 1910, Ligon 1970, Jackson and Thompson 1971). Resin wells are maintained by the birds, which results in a continuous flow of pine gum that can deter climbing Rat Snakes (*Elaphe obsoleta*; Jackson 1974). The plate is an area that is chipped through the cambium around the cavity entrance. Creation of the plate results in additional gum flow, but maintenance of the plate removes dried gum and keeps it from blocking the cavity entrance. With continued use of the cavity, the plate frequently becomes a bare circle of 20 cm diameter or larger. In a typical cavity tree, about 75 years old for Loblolly Pines (*Pinus taeda*; Jackson et al. 1979), excavation of such a plate does not obviously affect the survival of the tree. Mean diameter at cavity height for 100 Loblolly Pines (mean age = 76.1 years) on Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Mississippi, was 39.4 ± 5.3 cm. One might predict that woodpecker cavity, resin well, and plate excavation would have a significant impact on the physiology of smaller trees. I report here the death of a 55-year old Loblolly Pine cavity tree following enlargement of the plate by Red-cockaded Woodpeckers to girdle the tree.