

### **Literature Cited**

- Kaufman, K. 1990. *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- LeGrand, H. E., Jr., D. S. Carter, Jr., S. Cooper, R. J. Davis, J. O. Fussell III, S. R. B. Thompson, and M. H. Tove. 1997. 1996 Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee. *Chat* 61:260–264.
- LeGrand, H. E., Jr., S. Campbell, S. Cooper, R. J. Davis, E. V. Dean, R. D. McNeill, and S. R. B. Thompson. 2002. 2001 Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee. *Chat* 66:1–6.
- Pyle, P. 1997. *Identification Guide to North American Birds. Part I. Columbidae to Ploceidae*. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas CA.
- Sargent, R. S. and M. G. Sargent. 1999. *Black-chinned Hummingbird: Species Profile and Identification*. Hummer/Bird Study Group unpublished identification document. Clay, Alabama.

## **First Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) Banded in North Carolina**

**Susan Campbell**

*North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 W. Jones St.,  
Raleigh, NC 27603-1740*

Black-chinned Hummingbirds (*Archilochus alexandri*) breed in the western United States in a variety of habitats, from riparian forests to desert washes and urban gardens. They can be found from south-central Mexico into west Texas, throughout New Mexico, in most of Arizona and Colorado, in Utah, Nevada and Idaho as well as portions of California, Oregon and Washington and extreme southern British Columbia (Williamson 2001). Despite the fact that most individuals winter along the southwestern Pacific coast of Mexico, this species has been documented in the southeastern U.S. during fall and winter. Although it can be fairly common along the Gulf coast, few have been reported further north and east to date.

During the fall of 1999, Paulette Biles contacted me about an odd *Archilochus*-type hummingbird that had been coming to her feeders in Hampstead, Pender Co., North Carolina, since about November 11. She felt the bird was noticeably different from her usual Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*), and she thought it might be a female Black-chinned Hummingbird. I made visits to her yard in attempts to catch and band this hummer, once each in November and December, with no success. However, noting for myself the bird's short-tailed appearance, its dull greenish-gray crown feathering, gray-green upper parts, slightly decurved bill and frequent tail pumping, I was fairly confident that it was indeed a Black-chinned. This hummingbird also had gray streaking in the throat (about 30%), a white breast and a buffy wash along its flanks – all typical of a female of the species (Pyle 1997).



Figure 1. Black-chinned Hummingbird wing. Photo by Paulette Biles.

Finally, on the cold morning of January 15, 2000, at 8:20 AM on my third attempt, I was successful at trapping this unusual hummingbird. Using a Russell trap, I rapidly captured and banded it. After a close inspection of the bird's plumage, including its tenth (outer) primary, I confirmed that it was an immature female Black-chinned Hummingbird. The shape of the wing tip had a blunt and rounded look due to the characteristic shape of the outer primary. It had a wide (0.55 mm) inner web, making it noticeably truncate (Fig. 1). The long wing and short tail measurements (46.13 mm and 26.0 mm, respectively) in conjunction with the plain throat supported the identification of the bird as a female.

Further inspection of the hummingbird revealed she had a noticeable fat layer and was in heavy molt. There were pin feathers replacing heavily worn plumage on the head, belly, upper tail coverts, tail and wings. Unfortunately I had to release her due to signs of stress so I was unable to measure the culmen, look for bill corrugations (for evidence of age), or determine her weight.

This represents the third accepted record of this species in North Carolina (LeGrand et al. 2002) and the first identified by in-hand examination. The first record was of a young male seen at a feeder on Figure Eight Island in November of 1994 that was substantiated by extensive written details. The second was a female seen by the author and others at a feeder in Raleigh during the winter of 1997 and documented with photographs and sound recordings (Campbell and Gerwin 2006). Given the similarity of this species to Ruby-throated Hummingbird, which also occurs coastally during the winter in North Carolina, this record further substantiates the occurrence of the species in the state.

### Literature cited

- Campbell, S. M. and J. A. Gerwin. 2006. Second record of a Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) for North Carolina. *Chat* 70:14–17.
- LeGrand, H. E., Jr., S. Campbell, S. Cooper, R. J. Davis, E. V. Dean, R. D. McNeill, and S. R. B. Thompson. 2002. 2001 Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee. *Chat* 66:1–6.
- Pyle, P. 1997. Identification Guide to North American Birds. Part I. Columbidae to Ploceidae. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas CA.
- Williamson, Sheri. 2001. Hummingbirds of North America. Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, New York.