

Snow Geese Nesting on Melville Island, Northwest Territories

While engaged in a study of Peary caribou (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*) and muskoxen (*Ovibos moschatus*) in August 1972 and July and August 1973, we observed eight pairs of Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) and their broods on Melville Island, N.W.T. Melville Island has not previously been reported as a nesting area for Snow Geese. We offer the following observations as evidence for Snow Geese nesting on Melville Island.

On 13 August 1972 two adults and five goslings were seen about 2 kilometers south of Shellabear Point on the north coast of the Dundas Peninsula (74°50' N, 113°14' W). The geese were on a small freshwater lake about 0.5 kilometers from the coast.

On 27 July 1973 four adults and seven goslings were seen 10 kilometers north of the southeast corner of Sabine Bay (75°34' N, 108°50' W). The geese were in a coastal saltwater cove about 10 meters from shore.

On 28 July 1973 six adults and eight goslings were seen about 10 kilometers west of Palmer Point on the southeast coast of Melville (74°56' N, 108°12' W). The geese were on a small lake about 1 kilometer from the sea-coast.

On 29 July 1973 two adults and five goslings were seen about 8 kilometers southwest of Shellabear Point on the north coast of the Dundas Peninsula (74°49' N, 113°29' W). The geese were on a saltwater lagoon about 0.5 kilometers from the coast (about 6 kilometers west-southwest of the 13 August 1972 sighting).

On 1 August 1973 two adults and three goslings were seen about 3 kilometers southeast of Cape Mudge on the west coast of the Sabine Peninsula (75°53' N, 109°58' W). The geese were swimming in the mouth of a saltwater bay.

During the two summers we saw a total of 16 breeders with 28 goslings. Only an additional 11 non-breeders were seen on Melville Island during the same period.

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Costa's Hummingbird, a New Bird for Canada

Abstract. A Costa's Hummingbird *Calypte costae* was present at Victoria, British Columbia, from April 14 to April 17, 1972. This is the first record of the species for Canada.

During the evening of April 14, 1972, the first-named writer observed and identified an adult male Costa's Hummingbird *Calypte costae* in his garden at Penrhyn Street, near Cadboro Bay, Victoria, British Columbia. The bird was feeding from hummingbird feeders and from the blooms of Red Flowering Currant *Ribes sanguineum*. The bird was watched by many of Victoria's birdwatchers the following two days, at ranges as close as 3 feet. Among the experienced birdwatchers who saw the bird and concurred with its identification were Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Davidson, R. Fryer, F. Lansdowne, R. Satterfield, Rev. and Mrs. D. B. Sparling, and D. Stirling. It was last seen on the morning of April 17.

Field notes were made, as well as a color painting by A. R. Davidson, based on these notes. The field notes and the painting are in the files of the Ornithological Records Committee for Southern Vancouver Island at the address of the second author. The record was accepted by the Committee at its meeting of April 1973 and is listed in the 1972 Annual Bird Report for Southern Vancouver Island (Tatum 1973).

A synopsis of the more important features of the field notes follows. Size close to that of a Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*. Back, wings and tail green, the wings darker than the back. Forehead and throat purple, changing from black to red-purple with occasional flashes of scarlet and green. The feathers of the gorget were long, and in some attitudes, when the bird was at rest on the currant bushes, extended beyond the nape. Breast and belly white, with some light gray on the flanks. A white line behind eyes to side of face. It appeared aggressive towards Rufous Hummingbirds.

Mr. V. Walton, vice-president of the Vancouver Island Cagebird Society, and Mr. J. van Oosten, director of Woodland Park Zoological Gardens, Seattle, have informed us that, to their knowledge, no one keeps this species in captivity in British Columbia or Washington, and it seems extremely unlikely that the Victoria bird was not a wild bird.

Costa's Hummingbird is a bird of the arid desert regions of southern California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. It is not highly migratory and it does not normally occur much further north than central California. With the intense activity of modern birdwatching, however, anything may be discovered anywhere; it is important not to



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