

for aging will probably be resolved after we have banded a greater number of immatures and recaptured them later as adults. This is one of our main objectives as banders. As of this writing we have banded ten new Buff-bellied hummingbirds during the 1995-1996 winter season. **Robert R. Sargent and Martha B. Sargent**, 7570 Mack Hicks Road, Trussville, AL 35173

**GREEN VIOLET-EAR HUMMINGBIRD (*COLIBRI THALASSINUS*)  
FIRST RECORD FOR ALABAMA**

Robert R. Sargent and Martha B. Sargent

Duane J. Berger and Donna G. Berger

On 31 October 1995, our daughter, Donna Berger, read on *America Online* of a *violent-eared* hummingbird. She succeeded in locating the sender, Jerry Moulder of Pascagoula, Mississippi, and the people who currently had the bird at their hummingbird feeder, Jim and Barbara Heath of 12931 Shady Drive, Grand Bay (Mobile County), Alabama. My conversation with the Heath's convinced us that they had a big hummingbird with blue feathers. Although Mrs. Heath was convinced it was a Green violet-ear, we considered the Blue-throated (*Lampornis clemenciae*) and Broad-billed (*Cyanthus latirostris*) as being a slight possibility. None of the three possibilities have ever been seen in Alabama. However, we were aware of sightings in Texas, Arkansas, and North Carolina.

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

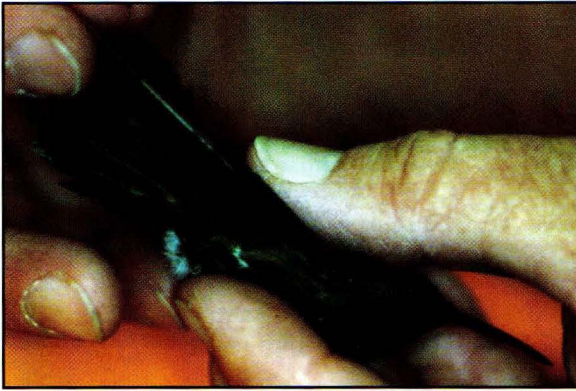
On the morning of 1 November 1995, we set our traps at the Heath's residence. Immediately we noted a beautiful Green violet-ear alternately approaching and retreating from our cage-trap. Within 15 minutes we were able to entice it into the trap and capture it.

The bird was banded with Band #8000T83373. The following measurements were taken: wing-60.18mm, tail-35.30mm, exposed culmen-20.33mm and weight-6.10 grams. It had no striations on the relatively short upper mandible, indicating an adult (Figure 1). The purple-violet color of the ear and cheek patch appeared less brilliant and smaller than the adult male that we had banded in the mountains of Burnsville (Yancy County), North Carolina on 5 September 1995. Also, it did not have the extensive violet on the breast as did the earlier male from North Carolina. Because of this and the shorter wing length, it was determined to be a female. The tail appeared very worn, and the flight feathers showed some wear from the tertials out through primary #8. Some wear was noted on the feathers of the breast and back.

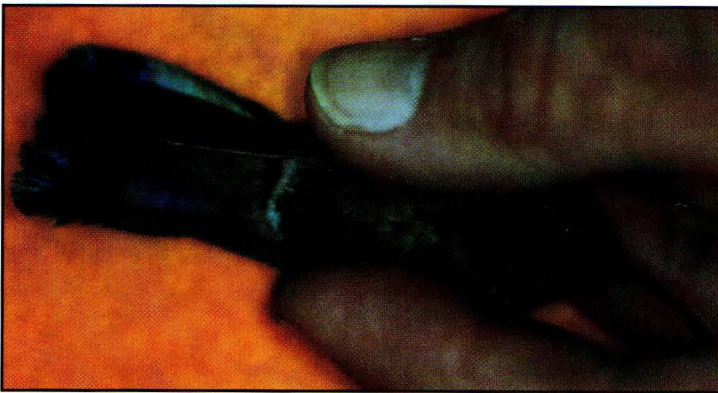
This female was basically all metallic green on the body with bronze feathers scattered about, heaviest in the area of the rump (Figure 2). The bill was black, heavy, somewhat short in appearance and distinctly decurved. The chin had a small patch of pale violet-blue feathers that bordered the lower mandible. The lower belly was a more pale green with not as much luster, possibly due to wear. There were puffy white anal tufts. The base of the rectrices underneath were covered with light gray coverts. The longer undertail coverts were green with a bluish-gray tinge. The wide rectrices were greenish-

blue with a blackish-purple band subterminally. The tips of the rectrices were blue. Although worn, it was our impression that the dusky purple wings were fairly new except primaries #9 and #10.

In hand it was big, strong and very restless. Although silent, the behavior it exhibited was very similar to the male we had captured in North Carolina.



**Figure 1.** Lateral view, Green-violet ear hummingbird. Photo by Martha B. Sargent.



**Figure 2.** Dorsal view, Green-violet ear hummingbird. Photo by Martha B. Sargent.

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

The capture and banding of a Green violet-ear hummingbird in Alabama was not surprising. However, what was surprising was when it was noted (November) and where (Alabama Gulf Coast). We had expected to document it in the more mountainous regions such as Mentone (DeKalb County) or the Cheaha range (east-central Alabama). Similarly to Paul Johnsgard's description of its breeding area in *The Hummingbirds of North America*, 1983, Smithsonian Institution Press, we believe that this adult female was moving from a higher elevation. Also, the molt pattern in the wings indicated her approaching nesting cycle. **Robert R. Sargent and Martha B. Sargent**, 7570 Mack Hicks Road, Trussville, AL 35173. **Duane J. Berger and Donna G. Berger**, 81 High Ridge Drive, Wetumpka, AL 36092.

### **GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*MYIARCHUS CRINITUS*)**

#### **FEEDING AT ROAD KILLS**

Robert R. Sargent and Martha B. Sargent

On two separate occasions, the authors had witnessed two Great Crested flycatchers attending road kills. On 12 June 1993 near Allgood in Blount County, two birds, sex unknown, were observed on the road-pavement near a dead Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*). The fox had apparently been dead for several days, and our assumption was that they were removing its hair with which to line their nest. On 10 May 1994 near Aliceville in Pickens County, we observed the same scenario, except this time it was a road-killed