

characters, however, are not structural but appear to relate entirely to the colours of the birds.

While there are about 400 species known to science, only 18 are found in North America. Five of these come as far north as Canada, four of which are confined to the neighbourhood of the Pacific coast. These are the Allen's, Rufous, Black-chinned and Calliope; the two latter far exceeding the others in numbers.

It is characteristic of the whole family that they build beautiful nests, diminutive certainly, but put together with the greatest skill and unsurpassed neatness. Usually they consist of white cotton from willows and other trees, but in the case of one, the Black-chinned Hummer, the buff-coloured cotton of the sycamore is often used exclusively, producing a nest of the colour of a sponge. Those built of white cotton are always covered, one eastern species using lichens, but those in the West appear to use anything that is convenient, mosses, strips of bark, fragments of weed stems and a few lichens being generally found.

The most common Hummer in California is the Annas, which does not wander into Canada, but its abundance in the South makes it worthy of a few remarks here.

It has iridescent red feathers on the throat, a feature so common with the males in this family, and has a similar patch over the head, giving it a most gorgeous appearance. Moreover the male has what Mr. Charles A. Allen calls "a very nice little song," which he delivers from some twig or perhaps a telegraph wire.

This species often builds on the nest of the previous year, a habit which seems more or less common throughout the family. The earliest record of a Hummer's nest in the United States belongs to this bird, a nest having been found on January 20th by Mr. Emerson at Hayward, Cal.

Turning, however, to Canadian species, we notice first Allen's Hummer, a small chestnut-bodied bird with greenish back. This is a bird of wide distribution, but not so much so as is the Rufous Hummer, which it resembles closely, except that the back of the latter is reddish-chestnut. Allen's Hummer is found in the southwestern parts of British Columbia only, which constitute the northern portion of its range. Mr. Allen, after whom it was