

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Selasphorus hummingbird How many? 1

Location? 115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, Iowa 50401

Type of Habitat? backyard, pasture

When? date(s): July 19 - 24, 2000 time: daytime to _____

Who? your name and address: Rita Goranson

Others with you: Jan Walter, Paul Hertzell

Others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.
a hummingbird equal in size to a ruby throated hummingbird. It had a dark bill, a white patch behind the eye, an emerald green crown and emerald green down the back and to the tail feathers. The throat was very light, with spots in lines up and down the throat. These spots were dark in color and pin head sized. The breast had a small band of rufous and otherwise was white. The sides and flanks were rufous. The rufous extended in the wing linings. The undertail had a light wash of rufous. Dark tail feathers, with white tips on the outer tail feathers. Dark primaries. It appeared to be a rufous female hummingbird, but I know that the bird must be in the hand, measured, weighed, etc. to know for sure. In the space of an hour and twenty minutes it fed at the feeder 7 times, then it was more like every 20 minutes it came to the feeder.

Similar species; how eliminated:

A ruby throated hummingbird fed twice during that time and we could see the gray white color of the female ruby throated. It had no rufous coloring at all.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

My feeder is ten inches from the window, so that even on a cloudy day visibility is good. NIKON 7 x 35

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

rufous in Iowa, Texas plus Anna's, black-chinned, blue-throat broad-bill Costa's, violet-crowned, and rubythroated in backyard all summer.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic, The Hummingbird Book, Stokes

Stokes: Western Guide

Peterson: Western Guide

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? same day

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).