

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
21 Dec 1987
Marshalltown, Marshall Co., IA
*Beth Proescholdt, *?Ed Savage
IBL 58: 48, 56, 74

Record Number: 87-30
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Ed Savage, 20 Dec
Beth Proescholdt, 21 Dec

REFERENCE

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 58:48
Field Reports: IBL 58:56
Records Committee: IBL 58:74

VOTE: 6-III, 1-IV

III, Acceptably documented only by Proescholdt; probably an immature male bird.

IV, Broad-tailed Hummingbird has not been excluded. Why couldn't someone see the shape of the tail and mention whether the bird made and noise or not?

III, Pretty good description from Proescholdt. With ruby throat and metallic green back with darker areas in sides and flanks is convincing enough to be a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, even at this late date. Other documentation is worthless.

III, In spite of Savage's irrefutable logic, I am forced to accept this record on the basis of Proescholdt's description. I believe this bird was later captured and placed in a greenhouse.

III, Doesn't appear Savage actually saw the bird himself--considered that doc by Maze. Proescholdt doc. clearly indicates a Ruby-throat.

III, ID prob correct--bird present all summer, therefore not one of the really rare western possibilities.

III, A hummingbird is a hummingbird but not necessarily a Ruby-throat. Beth's documentation is useful.

REVOTE: 7-III

III, Although description incomplete, I think broad-tail and hum would have been noted.

III, I still feel that Proescholdt's documentation adequately describes a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and not another species.

III, I have no problem with the Proescholdt description.

III, Extremely unlikely to be a Broad-tailed Hbd for 2 reasons: (1) geographic (2) present from summer on, although questionably same bird. These 2 reasons together make likelihood of Broad-tailed virtually zero. The far more likely Rufous is clearly eliminated. Where is the carcass?

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Ruby throated Hummingbird How many? 1
 Location? 1322 West Linn St. Marshalltown.
 Type of Habitat? Home yard.
 When? date(s): All Summer + Fall till Winter time: _____ to _____
 Who? your name and address: Don Maze Address Above
 Others with you: _____
 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 Humming bird is a Humming bird.
 Don teaches Biology at M.C.C. - M'town and
 should be qualified to identify this species

Ed. Savage

I seen this Hummingbird
 Sunday Morning 12/20/87

Don is a New Feeder observer

Similar species; how eliminated:

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? _____
 If yes, explain:

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

Feeding at feeder as has been all season.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? Next day

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

What species? Ruby-throated Hummingbird ^{bird} How many? 1Location? feeder at 1322 W Linn, MarshalltownType of habitat? a city backyard, feeder on clotheslineWhen? date(s): December 21, 1987 time: 3:09 to 3:11Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdtothers with you: aloneothers before or after you: Ed Savage, Carol McMillan, Pauline & Jim Mairs

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

After hearing the almost unbelievable report of a late hummingbird at a feeder, I left for Marshalltown to try to see it. After waiting 7 minutes on this cloudy, 39° day, with a cold south wind, I saw the hummingbird appear at the feeder, feeding a few times, then flying to a thin branch on an overhanging tree. (This feeder is taken in every night so it won't freeze.) Back to the feeder it came for several sips, then zipped off to a fence at the back of the yard, & away. I didn't see it again.

It had a metallic green across its back, darker on crown & wings; whitish underparts except for darker sides & flanks. As it turned once I saw a ruby-throat but only in the lower part of its gorget green, so I assumed it might be an immature male (altho it was reported as an adult male)

Similar species and how eliminated:

other hummingbirds - but this was so distinctive

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

cloudy, light from side, 30' estimated, 8x40 Nikon binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: manyReferences and persons consulted before writing description: National GeographicHow long before field notes made? at once this form completed? Dec. 29