

Rufous Hummingbird

Record Number: 93-15

8 May 1993

Classification: A-D

3 e. of Rippey, Boone Co., IA

*S. Laub, *Jim Fuller, *Jim Scheib

IBL 63:76, 64:68

DOCUMENTATIONS

Sharon Laub, 8-9 May, 1846 B. Ave., Rippey 50235-8792 [11/27/93]

Jim Fuller, 9 May, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City 52240

Jim Scheib, 9 May, 10 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 63:76

Records Committee: IBL 64:68

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Great record, especially for spring!

What species? Rufous Hummingbird-Adult male How many? 1Location? Feeder- Rippey- Boone Co., - 3miles east of Rippey-1/2 mile northType of habitat? Farm yardWhen? date(s): May 8-9 1993 time: 2 PM to 8:33 PM--5:39AM- 9AMWho? your name and address: Sharon Laub-1846 B Ave. Rippey, Iowa 50235-8792

others with you: _____

others before or after you: Kurtis and Russ Laub- Bob Myers

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.

size--shape- same as Ruby-throated--bill-dark looked longer than Ruby-throated, curved--eyewas dark with white spot behind it- head- was green Neck and back was rust orange--wing was dark green,-tail was rust-orange short-throat- red-orange iridescent--white under throat with a narrow band of rust-orange- then white to under the tail-sides were rust-orange legs and feet- dark--I did not hear it make any sound--behavior-like most hummingbirds I have watched.

Similar species and how eliminated: I eliminated Allen's because back appeared rust-orange

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
cloudy, dark and raining 4' guess naked eye
Bausch and Lomb 7x35

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have never seen one before

References and persons consulted before writing description: National Geographic Society
Birds of N.A.-Audubon Society-Eastern-Western-Birds of N.A.- Bob MyersHow long before field notes made? 2 hrs this form completed? May 8- 7 Pm

MAIL TO: T H Kent Field Reports Editor 211 Richards Street Iowa City, IA 52240

DOCUMENTAION OF UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTING

SPECIES: Rufous Hummingbird (Adult male)

LOCATION: Feeder at farm home of Sharon and Russ Laub, 3 miles east of Rippey (Boone Co.).

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240.

OTHER OBSERVERS: At the same time were the Laubs, Jane Fuller. Jim Scheib, Eugene and Eloise Armstrong. It was seen the previous afternoon by Bob Myers.

DATE & TIME: 9 May, 1993 (8:50-8:57 AM)

BACKGROUND: Sharon Laub reported to the Iowa Birdline at 3:45 PM on 8 May that a bird of this species had been coming to her feeder since 2:00 PM. Along with the Armstrongs, Jane Fuller and Jim Sceb, I was at the Laub residence shortly after 8:00 AM. We first saw the bird fly over about twenty minutes later. At this point, Mrs. Laub invited us into her kitchen where the feeder was only a few inches from the kitchen window. In about twenty more minutes the bird landed on a unility wire and sat there for about two minutes. It then flew to the feeder and stayed for about five minutes.

DESCRIPTION: The bird was a small hummingbird, estimated to be about the size of a Ruby-throated, and it had a short tail. It was generally orange (rufous), especially in flight. The upperparts, including head, neck, back, folded wing, and tail were all an orange color, although the folded wing, tail, and top of head appeared to be a little darker. The throat was a brilliant red color, which curved around on the side of the neck. The rest of the underparts were mostly orange, but there was a white band of maybe an eight of an inch on the upper breast between the red throat and the rufous breast, and another less described white area near the vent. The back had some green flecking on it. The bill was very long and thin, dark, and slightly decurved. The eye was dark, and there was a white spot to the distal of it.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The only other small hummingbird with much rufous on it is Allen's, and it has a green back.

VIEWING CONDITIONS & OPTICS: While the bird sat on the utility wire about 25 feet away, I used Swift Audubon binoculars (8.5 X 44). While it was at the feeder, slightly less than ten feet away, it was too close to focus the binoculars, and so I used the naked eye. It was a clear morning, and I was looking northeast. There was no sun glare, as the feeder was hung under the eave.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I have watched and photographed this species at length for a number of years in the mountains of Colorado, and have also seen it in Arizona, as recently as March.

REFERENCES & FIELD REPORTS: Mrs. Laub had Audubon's Master and National Geographic Field Guides that I glanced at during the viewing. Field notes were made in the car immediately after viewing, and this report was typed on 13 May.

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Rufous Hummingbird How Many? One *Male*

Location: Sharon Laub's near Rippey

Type of habitat?: Feeder at farmhouse

When? Date(s): Sun, May 9, 1993 time: about 8:50 am to 8:57 am

Who? your name and address:

James Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, IA 52240-9148

Others with you: Jim Fuller and mother, Armstrongs, Laubs

Others before or after you: Laubs, Sat, May 8

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.

A small (size of a Ruby-throated), short-tailed hummingbird with a dark gray slightly decurved bill. Appeared orange to red in flight. Rufous on back of neck and back, breast and in wing. Whole head above the throat line was dark. Red throat with a band of white below it, between throat and rufous on breast. Rufous on belly and some on under tail coverts. Rufous on tail. Some green flecking on back. Eye dark with white dot behind eye.

Similar species and how eliminated: Allen's has green back.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?

All above named birders agreed on the identification.

If yes, explain:

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

Looking north the light was from the east. View was unobstructed from about 30 feet when on wire for about four minutes, then from 6 to 15 feet from inside house to the feeder just outside the kitchen window for about five to seven minutes. Swift Audubon 8.5 x 44 binoculars at close focus of 13 feet.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen many in Colorado.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic and Audubon field guides were used on the spot.

How long before field notes made? Notes made within ten minutes.

How long before this form completed? 4.5 hours.

MAIL TO; T.H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240