

Rufous Hummingbird
10 Jul 1986
St. Olaf, Clayton Co., IA
*Larry Stone
P-0199 Stone; IBL 56:117, 121-122; 57:78

Record Number: 86-05
Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATION

Larry Stone

PHOTOGRAPH

Larry Stone, P-0199, IBL

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 56:117

Stone

Records Committee: IBL 57:78

VOTE: 3-I-P, 4-III

III, The written description is a little non-specific. I have seen the photos which clearly show a beautiful adult male Rufous type, but none of them show the back. The statement "The distinct, rusty color, especially on the back ..." is absolutely necessary to establish that the photos were not of the unlikely Allen's Hummingbird. The photos themselves are not diagnostic because none of them show the back color, but combined with the description of the rufous back makes for an overall good record.

I-P, Register photo plus description of rufous back make this a male Rufous. Date is a bit early but not unprecedented.

I-P if photograph shows color of back. The description is consistent with Rufous Hummingbird since the back was rufous color and not green. I would like to see photos showing the back of the bird.

III, I would like to see photos even though description seems OK.

III, Nothing to suggest that bird was not a Rufous.

III, OK!

REVOTE (at meeting): 6-I-P

One of photos was found to show enough of the back to see rufous color there.

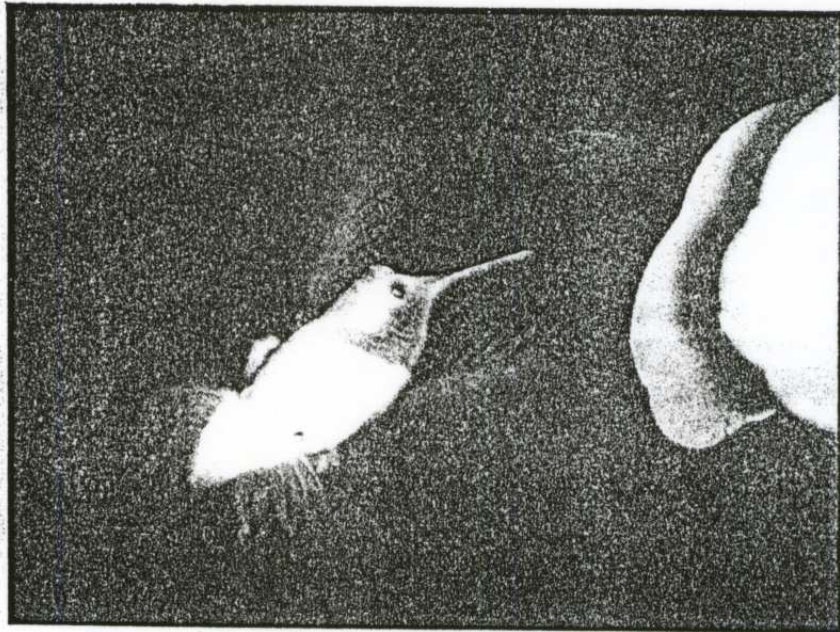
86-05

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IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

This is the first nesting record of White-faced Ibis for Iowa, and the easternmost interior nesting record for this species. The closest previous nesting records are from Heron Lake, Minnesota, in 1894 and 1895 (Peabody 1896). This location is 20 miles northwest of Jemmerson Slough. Other recent nesting records from the northern Great Plains states includes Nebraska—Valentine N.W.R. in 1984 (*Am. Birds* 38:1035); South Dakota—Sand Lake N.W.R. in 1978 (*Am. Birds* 32:1176), three subsequent years at Sand Lake, White Wood Lake in 1982 (*Am. Birds* 36:990); North Dakota—Long Lake in 1978 and Kraft Slough in 1979 (*Am. Birds* 32:1176, 33:874); and Montana—Bowdoin N.W.R. in 1975 (Skaar 1975). Although there were a few scattered nesting records for this region at the turn of the century (e.g., Nebraska and Minnesota), by 1965 the only interior colonies were at Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas, and in several mountain states (Ryder 1967). Since then, the spread northward has been evident by the numerous records of stragglers and migrants throughout this region. Only time will tell us whether the Iowa nesting is a one-time occurrence or the beginning of a nesting population.

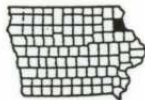
LITERATURE CITED

- Harrison, C. 1978. *A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*. Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Greene Press.
 Peabody, P. B. 1896. White-faced Ibis breeding in Minnesota. *Auk* 13:79.
 Ryder, R. A. 1967. Distribution, migration and mortality of the White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) in North America. *Bird-Banding* 38:257-277.
 Skarr, P. D. 1975. *Montana Bird Distribution*. Bozeman, MT: P. D. Skarr.

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN CLAYTON COUNTY

LARRY STONE



At about 6:30 p.m. on 10 July 1986, a hummingbird appeared at a sugar-water feeder near the kitchen window of our home in St. Olaf. The bird fed briefly at the red-and-yellow plastic flowers, and my wife, Margaret, remarked that it looked brownish, rather than green like the ruby-throats we normally see. I responded that the bird probably looked odd because it was immature or molting. But the hummingbird returned every few minutes, and Margaret kept insisting that it was something different. We studied it more closely and noticed its bright orange gorget, indicating an adult male. The rest of the plumage was predominantly brown to rusty, with lighter breast feathers and darker wing feathers. The bird closely matched the picture of a male Rufous Hummingbird in *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, and Zim.

Still skeptical, I set up a camera and flash units and made several color photographs of the bird through an open window at a distance of about three feet. The bird at first flew away when the strobe flashed, but later showed little fear of the light. It returned to the feeder at intervals of 5 to 15 minutes, feeding for a few seconds to one minute each time. It often flew to nearby arborvitae trees when it left the feeder, but we did not see it perch. The bird kept returning until about 9 p.m., when it was nearly dark.

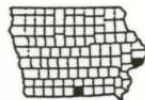
Next morning, July 11, I first saw the bird about 7:30 a.m. It continued to feed at the feeder at about 10 to 30 minute intervals. I made a few more photographs. After about 10 a.m., the bird did not return. We did not see any ruby-throats for a comparison while the rufous was present. But when we saw a male ruby-throat later in the day, we remarked that it looked smaller, slimmer, and greener than the rufous.

After discussions with Tom Kent, Jim Dinsmore, and Francis Moore, we were confident the bird we saw and photographed was an adult male Rufous Hummingbird. The distinct, rusty color, especially on the back, fit no other species. Of the possible vagrant hummingbirds, the rufous is most likely to wander into Iowa.

Box 68, St. Olaf, IA 52072

FIRST HOUSE FINCHES NESTING IN IOWA

STEVE DINSMORE and PETER C. PETERSEN



Since first reported in 1982, the House Finch has become an increasingly frequent visitor in Iowa, occurring at scattered locations at all times of the year. It was considered only a matter of time before nesting occurred. Here we report the details for the first nesting records of House Finches in Iowa.

In early July 1986 Dinsmore received a call from Doug Reeves about a pair of House Finches in Corydon, Wayne County. The birds had been visiting the feeder of Dorothy Pohl since mid-April. In early July, she began seeing a third bird which appeared to be a recently fledged young bird. On 12 July 1986, Mark Proescholdt and Dinsmore saw a female House Finch and at least two young birds about a block from Mrs. Pohl's feeder. On at least one occasion, they saw the young begging for food from the female. The sparrow size, large bill, brown coloration, and streaked underparts identified the birds as House Finches. The lack of a distinct ear patch eliminated female Purple Finch.

In early May 1986 Petersen received a call from Harold Ray of Davenport about some Purple Finches still coming to his feeder. Petersen suggested that they might be House Finches, and on 31 May Mr. Ray informed Petersen that he was sure the birds were House Finches. On 1 June Petersen saw the pair and a begging young. The male was identified by the rich orange-red of the head, throat, breast, and rump. The female and young lacked the white eye stripe of the female Purple Finch. On 20 July, another young bird was seen at the same feeder, indicating that the parents had raised a second brood. No more than one young was seen at one time. The male was still visiting the feeder on 6 August.

We believe that these House Finches came from the eastern population, rather than the western population, of this species. The eastern birds are moving west at a rapid pace while the western birds seem to have slowed their eastward movement.

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86-05

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

by the Records Committee
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: *Rufous Hummingbird*
DATE SEEN: *10 July 1986*
SITE OF OBSERVATION: *St. Olaf, Iowa*
OBSERVERS: *Larry Stone*
DATE OF REVIEW: *9-1-86*
METHOD OF REVIEW: *Vote via mail*
CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: *I-P*

COMMENTS: *The Records Committee unanimously accepted this record on basis of description and photos. While a view of the bird's back would have been nice, enough could be seen to eliminate the unlikely Allen's Hummingbird.*

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

Larry Stone
Box 68
St. Olaf, IA 52072
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