

Selasphorus species
25 Sep 1984

Record Number: 84-30
Classification: A-P

Chester, Howard Co., IA

*E/S Tyler, *Kent, *Moore, *Myers,

*S. Dismore, *B./*M. Proescholdt; P-0146, IBL 54:116; 55:57, Moore 1984

DOCUMENTATIONS

Eleanor/Sanford Tyler (25 September to 2 October)

Francis L. Moore

Robert K. Myers

Beth Proescholdt

Mark Proescholdt

Steve Dinsmore

Thomas H. Kent

PHOTOGRAPHS

Sanford Tyler, September 1984, P-0146 (IBL 54:106)

LETTER

Bruce [Peterjohn] to Tom [Kent], 20 December 1984

REFERENCES

Moore, F. L., R. K. Myers, and T. H. Kent. 1984. Rufous Hummingbird in northeast Iowa. IBL 54:104-106.

Field Reports: IBL 54:116

Records Committee: IBL 55:57

Photographs: IBL 54:106 (P-0146)

VOTE: ON RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1-I-P, 1-II, 3-IV, 2-V; ON Selasphorus sp. : 4-I-P, 2-II, 1-unrecorded II, II, Partly based on likelihood of this vs. Allen's Hummingbird.

IV, I-P, On morphologic grounds Allen's Hummingbird cannot be eliminated. Vagrancy patterns strongly favor Rufous. Do we treat this species the same way we treat Ani species? This bird should have been netted, measured and photographed to record wing, tail, and culmen lengths, widths of 1, 2, and 5 rectrices, and shape of 2nd rectrix. Let's not screw up the next time one appears.

IV, II, Possibly impossible to tell in field from Allen's or hybrid, would like to see pictures.

IV, I-P, Best kept secret of the year! Would have seen bird had I been privy to its presence.

V, Immature female. S. rufus averages paler below, which was well noted by several observers. No observer mentioned coloration of interior rectrices. General descriptions of tail feathers by S.

Dinsmore may be of Allen's or a hybrid. S. rufus most likely.

V, I-P, While this bird is almost certainly a Rufous Hummingbird, the possibility of a hybrid or Allen's cannot be eliminated. The necessity for clear photographs of the spread tail when this bird is encountered is paramount. Even considering range, one cannot safely eliminate hybrids or Allen's (Note possible hybrid form Memphis, TN).

I-P or II, I-P or II, Even though there isn't rusty in middle of the back, I'd call this a Rufous. For an Allen's to get here, even the most northern-most Allen's would have to fly directly east. California birds would have to fly northeast. Most displaced migrants in fall fly south but with more of an angle to east or west than they should. Note also that fully half the 'Allen's' reported in the paper you copied for us are known hybrids. Vagrancy is unlikely in Allen's, while a NW storm (see Tyler's documentation) could well bring us a Rufous. (P.S.--the one Nebraska specimen keys to Rufous--I checked).

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Moore, F. L., R. K. Myers, and T. H. Kent. 1984. Rufous Hummingbird in northeast Iowa. Iowa Bird Life 54:104-106.

IOWA BIRD LIFE - 54, 1984
Rufous Hummingbird in Northeast Iowa

Francis L. Moore
333 Fairfield St.
Waterloo, IA 50703

Robert K. Myers
1236 Sylvia Ave.
Waterloo, IA 50703

Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards St.
Iowa City, IA 52240

On September 28, 1984 word was received of a possible Rufous Hummingbird, *Selasphorus rufus*, at a feeder in Chester, a town of 175 people in Howard County. Chester lies in northeast Iowa on the Minnesota border just west of the hilly Paleozoic Plateau. The bird had been coming to the large hummingbird feeders at the home of Eleanor and Sanford Tyler. It was first seen on September 25 following a cold front with strong northwest winds and remained until October 2. The Tylers, former Minnesota bird banders, immediately recognized that the bird was unusual and tentatively identified it as a Rufous Hummingbird.

Moore and Myers arrived at the Tylers early on September 29 and first observed the bird at 7:40 AM. The bird fed at the two feeders on the east side of the house every 15 to 20 minutes, remaining about two minutes at a time. Between feedings it rested in nearby trees, especially on the dead limbs of a tall tree. Kent observed the bird late in the afternoon of the same day when it fed less frequently. A composite of our descriptions follows.

The bird was of similar size to an immature Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*, that fed occasionally at the same feeders. The long, needle-like black bill appeared slightly decurved. The eye was dark. The top of the head and back appeared green. The white throat was flecked with dark, suggesting a beginning gorget. The breast, sides and under tail coverts were pale rust. The rust extended across the upper belly as a narrow band, and beneath this the mid and lower belly were white. The upper tail coverts were a darker rust while the distal tail was black with white tip.

Photographs taken by the Tylers at close range show a white spot at the posterior rim of the eye and small rusty areas in the scapulars and mid-back.

The description and photographs fit an immature male Rufous Hummingbird as suggested by the Tylers. However, the description also fits an immature male Allen's Hummingbird, *Selasphorus sasin*, a species that is an unlikely vagrant to Iowa (see below).

The Rufous Hummingbird is the most northerly of North American hummingbirds, nesting in the mountainous and coniferous areas from northern California and southwest Montana on the south, north nearly to Anchorage, Alaska. After nesting, males leave first followed by females and immatures. Most fall migrants are found in the mountains, but some birds stray eastward. The main wintering grounds are in Mexico, but small numbers are regularly found along the Gulf Coast of the United States to Florida and some even reach the east coast of Florida. The bulk of the spring migration is through the lowlands of California and eastern Arizona with males arriving by mid-February and peak migration in March and April.

Eastern vagrants are almost all found in fall and winter and occur across the entire eastern United States and Canada. A search of Audubon Field Notes and American Birds for boldfaced records from 1948 through 1983, Bent (1940), American Ornithologists' Union (1983), books on birds of mid-western states, and an article by Conway and Drennan (1979) revealed 35 definite or probable records east of the Great Plains states (Saskatchewan to Oklahoma) and north of states bordering the Gulf Coast (Texas to Florida). Rufous Hummingbirds are casual on the western edge of the Great Plains in fall migration and regular in small numbers on the Gulf Coast in fall and winter.

In fall migration males may reach southern California by late June and are found in Arizona and Texas by late July with the peak migration in early to mid-August. The early eastward vagrants have also been males. Later birds may be males, females or immatures. The monthly distribution of vagrant records by state or province is shown below.

Moore, F. L., R. K. Myers, and T. H. Kent. 1984. Rufous Hummingbird in northeast Iowa. Iowa Bird Life 54:104-106.
(cont)

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RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

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June: Minnesota
July: Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire
August: Minnesota, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Wisconsin
September: Indiana, Iowa, Maine (2), Manitoba, Maryland, Minnesota (2),
New York, Ontario, Virginia, Wisconsin
October: Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri
November: Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania (2),
Virginia
December: Arkansas, South Carolina
January: Virginia
April: Massachusetts
May: Maryland, Michigan

The 16 June 1979 record from St Louis County, Minnesota, could be an early fall migrant, as fall migrants normally reach southern California by late June and there is a 26 June 1977 record from Rapid City, South Dakota. Males are found far south and east of their nesting grounds by July with records from New Hampshire on 18 July 1976, northwest Nebraska on 20 July 1978, Midland, Texas, on 23 July 1960, Orono, Maine, on 28 July 1957, Anoka, Minnesota, on 30 July 1983, and Shreveport, Louisiana, on 31 July 1976. One-third of the eastern vagrants listed above are from September, so the Iowa bird arrived at the most likely time.

Unlike the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, the Rufous Hummingbird may linger into colder weather. Several attempts have been made to capture them and protect them from the cold. The November to January records are from southern or eastern locations. On the Gulf Coast wintering birds remain until late March or early April. The spring records from Massachusetts on 15 April 1978, Maryland on 1 May 1971, and Michigan on 17 May 1981 are unusual. The source of these birds could be from those wintering on the Gulf Coast. The likelihood of spring vagrancy from the population wintering in Mexico is decreased by the more westerly migration route of this species in spring.

Some migrant birds have lingered for a few days to a few weeks; for example, late September to 15 October 1978 at Hastings, Minnesota; early September to 18 October 1979 at Selkirk, Manitoba; late September to 25 November 1981 at Arlington, Virginia, when it was netted; and 6 September to 22 October 1978 at Bemidji, Minnesota, when it flew into a house and died three days later.

Identification of an adult male Rufous Hummingbird presents no problem, as the rufous back clearly separates it from the only other similar species, Allen's Hummingbird. Female Rufous Hummingbirds cannot be safely separated from Allen's Hummingbird in the field, but there is no evidence of vagrancy of Allen's, a Pacific Coast species, except in Texas and Louisiana. The female Broad-tailed Hummingbird, *Selasphorus platycercus*, may have a cinnamon wash on the flanks and some red in the tail, making it difficult to distinguish from Rufous. In the female Rufous, the reddish sides, flanks and undertail coverts contrast with the white breast and belly and there is more red in the tail. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds have reached western Nebraska and further south they have reached Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Immature male Rufous Hummingbirds have rufous on the rump, separating them from female *Selasphorus* hummingbirds but not from immature male Allen's Hummingbird.

The Rufous Hummingbird is the only hummingbird likely to be a vagrant in Iowa. The same sources were searched for other possibilities. The Black-chinned Hummingbird, *Archilochus alexandri*, is casual to Louisiana in winter and there are at least four winter and spring records from Florida. A specimen of a female at Kearney, Nebraska, was secured in August 1903. A female specimen was obtained in Massachusetts on 25 November 1979 and there is a sight record from Nova Scotia on 30 May 1964. Two hypothetical records are listed for Illinois from August 1967. Otherwise, the nearest vagrant records are from Wyoming.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird is casual to western Nebraska from mid-July to

84-30

Moore, F. L., R. K. Myers, and T. H. Kent. 1984. Rufous Hummingbird in northeast Iowa. Iowa Bird Life 54:104-106. (cont)

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mid-September, and there are May records from western Nebraska, southwest Kansas, and the Oklahoma panhandle. There are two winter records from Louisiana and one August record from Ft. Smith, Arkansas. This species would be very difficult to separate from Ruby-throated Hummingbird without having it in hand or hearing the male.

Calliope Hummingbird, *Stellula calliope*, the last of the northern hummingbirds to consider, rarely has been seen east of the Rocky Mountains. There are records from Denver to Ft. Collins, Colorado, in late July to early August 1978, Rapid City, South Dakota, on 19 August 1964, western Nebraska on 8 Apr 1962 and August 1960, and southwest Kansas on 3 September 1952.

Allen's Hummingbird, a Pacific Coast species that migrates through Arizona in fall, has been found in late fall and winter in Texas and Louisiana on at least eight occasions. Anna's Hummingbird, *Calypte anna*, an even more abundant Pacific Coast species that winters in Arizona, has been found twice in Louisiana in November and once at Tulsa, Oklahoma, in winter.

Of the southern hummingbirds, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, *Amazilia yucatanensis*, is a resident of south Texas that strays to Louisiana. Two reported from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, on 10 May 1964 were considered highly questionable by Johnsgard (1983). Magnificent Hummingbird, *Eugenes fulgens*, a species of southeast Arizona and Big Bend, Texas, has been reported from northeast Kansas (AOU 1983).

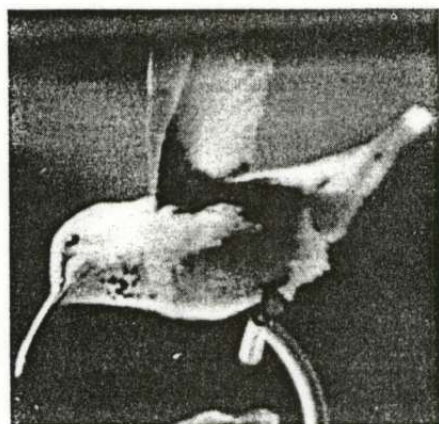
REFERENCES

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Bent, A. C. 1940. Life Histories of North American Cuckoos, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds and Their Allies. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

Conway, A. E., and S. R. Drennan. 1979. Rufous Hummingbird in eastern North America. *Am. Birds* 33:130-132.

Johnsgard, P. A. 1983. The Hummingbirds of North America. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.



Rufous Hummingbird at Chester, late September 1984, photo by Sanford Tyler.

84-30

105-K E. Ticonderoga Dr.
Westerville, OH 43081
20 Dec. 1984

Dear Tom,

How have you been the past few months? Hope you are enjoying all of your spare time now that you have only one seasonal report to edit.

I'm returning the photographs of the Selasphorus hummingbird. While the bird is definitely an immature male, I don't necessarily share your assumptions that it is automatically a Rufous. The presence of several Allen's records from Louisiana plus the fact that the two species apparently hybridize (a Selasphorus specimen from Memphis is possibly such a hybrid) has raised a lot of questions concerning the identification of extralimital Selasphorus hummers. While I agree that based on geographic probability, a Rufous is more likely to occur in the midwest. However, I don't feel that a positive identification can be based on this probability alone.

Since your bird was an immature male, it might be positively identified from photographs (immature females are even harder and must be captured). Unfortunately, these photos do not show the characteristics needed to make this identification. Were any photos taken that show the tail fully fanned so the shape and color pattern of the individual feathers can be examined? These photos can be from either the front or back. If such photos exist, please send them to me and possibly the bird can be identified. If not, I'll have to treat it as a Selasphorus sp. hummer.

For your information, the definitive reference for identifying these hummers is:

Stiles, F.G. 1972. Age and sex determination in Rufous and Allen hummingbirds. Condor 74: 25-32.

The most recent article discussing extralimital Selasphorus hummers is:

Newfield, N.L. 1983. Records of Allen's hummingbird in Louisiana and possible Rufous X Allen's hummingbird hybrids. Condor 85: 253-254.

By the way, in the article written by Francis Moore et al. concerning this sighting, you should mention that some adult male Rufous Hummingbirds can have green backs so that even their identification is not as clear cut as stated in the popular field guides.

Hope your CBCs have been productive. Its been fairly mild here which surprisingly hasn't produced many unusual sightings. Our fall was fairly interesting, highlighted by a very cooperative Sharp-tailed Sandpiper although we also had a good representation of many of our rarer regular migrants. Keep in touch and have a good holiday season.

Sincerely,

Bruce

What species? ^{Hummingbird} (Rufus) *SELASPHORUS rufus* How many? 1 (one)

Location? Feeder at Chester, Iowa home of Sanford & Eleanor Tyler

Type of habitat? Bottle feeder & locust trees

When? date(s): feeding continuously time: Sept 25 to Oct 2, 1984

Who? your name and address: E. KAHOR & Sanford Tyler, Box 145, Chester, Ia 52134

others with you: Francis Moore, Bob Meyers, Jonath, Beth Proescholdt, Kurt Nelson, Mason City, Steve Dinsmore of Ames, Armstrong of Bonessville, Ia & Dennis Thompson, Kiri Tyler

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

See Photo

Rust stripes in throat area, Rust Breast, Rust rump. Feet & bill dark - green to Rusty back - wings when flying were a blur of Rust.

Habitat: sat in top of walnut tree or in locust tree in neighbor yard and caught insects.

Saw him all hours of day and types of weather.

Arrival: The day before was a severe storm with NW winds. Snow storm in Northern Rocky mts. States, thought we were going to lose our Ruby Throat hummer, dubbed "Bimbo". But gained a Rufus.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Allen's - eliminated by type of storm and direction of storm

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No.

If yes, explain:

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

all types

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Banders

Birds of Miss. by Roberts & Birds of N. Am.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Ruther College library

How long before field notes made? 10 days this form completed? Oct. 21, 1984

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

October 21, 1984

Dear Mr. Kent:

I have some very good pictures of "Rufus" which I'm enclosing. The 3 at the feeder were taken out of the dining room window. The one in the Locust tree was his favorite place to catch insects. The tree is in the neighbors yard just to the south of us. We didn't see him after Oct 2, 1984. Our baby "Bimbo" Ruby-throat stayed until Oct. 12th. He grew up pretty fast. We could see a restlessness in his last few days.

Looking through my newsletters I find I must have sent copies to your father (Fred Kent, 302 Richards St. La city) also Iowa Bird Life in Davenport). My recollection of Fred Lester were not the greatest. I resigned my editorship when he was chosen for an office in Iowa and lived in Wisconsin. I felt this was not "Korker".

I received a packet of zero x material on feeding and banding hummers from the Proerschold's. I guess they thought I didn't know what I was doing.

We are going to be leaving for Nashville, Tenn. soon and our mail will be forwarded. We thought we would be gone by now but our little poodle (15 yrs old) has had a severe attack of breathing difficulty because of Emphysema during the humid weather. Had to put her in an oxygen cage. In order to keep her calm we have to get ready at a slower pace.

Your research evidently pinpointed it as being a "Rufus". The pictures may help decide it definitely.

Our daughter Kris at Father's is a Political Science intern for Joe Johnston of Iowa City. She was in a Tractorcade parade today in Cresco and will be in the news tonight, so must get the news out.

Smiles,

The Tyler's

G. Leonard Hubbard

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) How many? 1 84-30Location? Sanford and Eleanor Tyler residence on East side of their house, Chester, Howard County, IAType of habitat? Hummingbird feeder on East side of houseWhen? date(s): September 29, 1984 time: 7:40 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. ^{first time} at approx 15 to 20 min intervals until we left at aboutWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Bob Myersothers before or after you: Tom Kent, Beth and Mark Proescholdt, Steve Dinsmore

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.

This bird was definitely a hummingbird species about the size of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird; no other hummingbird was close so a comparison could not be made. The bill was long and needlelike with what appeared to be a slight decurve to it. The bill was black. The eye was black. The top of the head was green fading to a lighter green on the nape into the back fading back to a darker green on the back and fading off again into a rusty-rufous color into the rump. The rufous color of the rump extended through the upper tail coverts and into the retrices. The terminal half of the retrices turned to a blackish color. The upper wing coverts were green; the rest of the wing was dark. The throat was whitish with a few dark spots in the center of the throat and a few on each side of the throat. The breast down ~~to~~ through the belly, including the flanks, was a rusty color. The vent area was a lighter color, almost whitish. The undertail coverts were rufous color. The feet were very small and hidden most of the time but appeared dark gray to blackish color. This coloration tends more toward the coloration of an immature male. Allen's Hummingbird cannot be ruled out completely because of coloration since the two species apparently cannot be ~~separated~~ separated in the field in immature and female plumages. Allen's is not known to be a vagrant, as far as I can remember, East of the Rockies, which would rule out Allen's Hummingbird. The bird flew back and forth between a hummingbird feeder and several trees near the house. It came to the feeder at approximately 15 to 20 minute intervals and stayed at the feeder between 1 and 2 minutes. No voice was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: Allen's eliminated basically because of its frequency of vagrancy outside its known range, no Allen vagrancy records for quite some distance from this location. Ruby-throated eliminated because of all the rufous coloring on the bird, Ruby-throated has no rufous coloring at all.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Excellent viewing conditions in shade and sunlight from approx 3 feet at closest with unaided eye, 30 to 50 feet using Bushnell Spacemaster 20x60 stock mounted, Celestron C90 mounted on Nikkormat camera body at 20x, and 10x40 Leitz binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No previous experience with this species or Allen's Hummingbird. Lots of experience with Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? at sighting this form completed? 4 hours

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

What species? Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) How many? 1 (Imm. ♂)Location? Chester, Iowa (home of Eleanor + Sanford Tyler)Type of habitat? Coming To Feeders - small townWhen? date(s): Sept. 29, 1984 time: 7:40 A.M. to 5 or 6 times to about 9:30 or 10:00 A.M.Who? your name and address: Robert K. Myers, 1236 Sylvia Ave. Waterloo, Iowaothers with you: Francis Mooreothers before or after you: Mr + Mrs. Tyler + daughter had seen bird since 9-26-84

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.

Overall appearance = small hummingbird about same size as ruby-throat but with obvious reddish breast, flanks and tail.

Bill = dark - about same length as head - from some angles it appeared to be very slightly decurved.

Head = Crown was greenish, eye was dark, throat whitish but did show a very reduced gorget (reddish) and some reddish flecks around it. There was an obvious white band on upper breast. Green on hind neck (nape) was not as intense as on crown or on back. Some red fleck could be seen in nape.

Breast = Reddish on front + sides - lower breast (belly) was whitish.

Back = Greenish with some reddish on sides of back and becoming red on rump.

Wings = dark

Tail = undertail coverts = whitish but top + bottom of tail itself was reddish

The bird would come to feed every 15-20 min. and then would go perch in some of the trees around the house. Mrs. Tyler said it was unfriendly toward the ruby-throats at the feeders.

Similar species and how eliminated: Imm. Allen's hummingbird is inseparable in field but due to its range and lack of easterly vagrants this bird was most likely a rufous.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: At times in bright sun - distance = 10' min. to 55' max. - we watched from car and then from inside house - I used 7X35 B&K binoc. + 20X scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No experience with rufous but have seen many ruby-throats

References and persons consulted before writing description: Nat. Geographic guide + The Master Guides.

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

This bird appeared after a very strong front ⁸⁴⁻³⁰
accompanied by strong winds came through from the
west. Our temps. dropped from the 90's one day to
the 40's after the front went through.

What species? Rufous Hummingbird How many? 1Location? Chester, Iowa, n. Howard Co., 1/2 mile from MinnesotaType of habitat? Hummingbird feeder by window - Eleanor + Sanford Tyler homeWhen? date(s): September 29, 1984 time: 10:05 to 11:45 - 6 times, totalWho? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, ~~at~~ Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Steve Dinsmore, Mark Proescholdtothers before or after you: Francis Moore, Bob Myers just before us, Tom Kent after us

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.

The hummingbird, about Ruby-throat size, had a green ~~head~~ crown + neck, a dark bill, a green back with a hint of light rufous showing once, darker green wings, + a tail colored rufous with green tip (or edging) + white tips on the outer tail feathers that looked like a white line. There was a buffy-rufous on its sides + some buffy blotchiness on its breast (or belly).

On the throat lines of tiny dark spots lead downward with a few heavier rufous spots, in the lowest part of the throat area. ~~It was white below the spotted throat.~~ It had a dark smudge around the eye that designated it an immature ♂ rather than a ♀, as did the more heavily marked throat.

The bird came at irregular intervals to the feeder just outside the window (at 10:05, 10:15, 10:37, 11:02, 11:15, 11:45) after perching momentarily on dead twigs near the top of a small walnut tree about 20' from the feeder. It would dart out, flycatcher fashion (over)

Similar species and how eliminated: Ruby-throated HummingbirdDid any one disagree or have reservations about identification? YesIf yes, explain: I had reservations at first and had several good looks before being sure in my mind it was an immature ♂ Rufous Hummingbird

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

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen adult Rufous Hummingbirds before in WashingtonReferences and persons consulted before writing description: field guides - National Geographic Peterson's + Robbin'sHow long before field notes made? made as we watched this form completed? Oct. 3, 1984

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

after insects, then return to the same perch, or one within inches of it - sometimes several times before going to the feeder. It fed about $\frac{1}{2}$ minute each time before darting away.

Mr. Tyler, who was watching from the back yard, reported it was often dashing after insects around a locust tree during this time when it was not coming to the feeder.

What species? Rufous Hummingbird How many? 1Location? Chester, Iowa - Howard CountyType of habitat? at hummingbird feeder and yard in small townWhen? date(s): Sept. 29, 1984 time: 10:05 to 11:45 a.m. - 6 times totalWho? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Beth Proescholdt, Steve Dinsmoreothers before or after you: Bob Myers, Francis Moore, Tom Kent

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.

This hummingbird had brown in its tail, very rufous on its sides or flanks, and speckles on its white throat. The bird had a green head and back, a distinct white band under its throat, a dark bill, a dark eye area, and a white rump area. When perched at the feeder, its tail showed white tail tips, then black, and then a rusty brown where the tail and the body merge. The bird had a brownish rufous color on its greenish back just above its dark, black-colored wings.

We saw this bird six times in the morning. The first time we were outside the house and saw it come to the feeder. The next three times we were inside the house at the window, saw it perched in the walnut tree about 30' away before it would come to the feeder 3-4 feet away from our eyes showing its frontside to us as it faced us. The last two times that we saw the bird we were sitting outside beside the walnut ~~tree~~ 15' away (over)

Similar species and how eliminated: Ruby-throated Hummingbird did not have rufous in its tail, on its side, and on its back.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny day, bird in sunlight at feeder, sun on the bird when we sat outside. Distances estimated. 7x35 Binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen some rufous hummingbirds in Washington state. References and persons consulted before writing description: Bird field guides - Natl. Geog., Robbins, and R.T. Peterson's. Looked at Beth Proescholdt's notes.

How long before field notes made? made while this form completed? Oct. 7, 1984
viewing

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

From its perch in the tree and 20' away from the feeder. We saw it perched in the tree both times and got good side views of it. Then it flew to the feeder both times and we could see its backside very well then. We usually saw the bird $\frac{1}{2}$ minute to 1 minute each time at the feeder and longer (2 minutes or so) when we observed it in the tree before it came to the feeder.

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

84-70

What species? Rufous Hummingbird How many? 1Location? Chester, Howard Co., IA.Type of habitat? at a hummingbird feeder at a houseWhen? date(s): Sept. 29, 1984 time: _____ to _____Who? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames IA 50010others with you: Beth and Mark Proescholdt, Liscombothers before or after you: Francis Moore and Bob Myers, Waterloo

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 good-sized Hummingbird, estimated $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4" long.

The belly, sides, and tail all showed rufous coloring.

The breast and undertail were white

The throat and gorget were speckled with rufous spots.

The bill was long and thin, dark in color and about twice the length of the head.

The eye was black, as was the area around it.

There was a white band going across the chest under the gorget.

The back was mostly green with some rufous near the wings and on the rump.

The wings were also green, but appeared darker than the back.

The tail was ~~black~~ green down the middle with some rufous and black on the outer tail feathers. Each tail feather was also tipped with white.

Similar species and how eliminated: Separated from other hummingbirds by rufous color on sides, belly, tail and the rufous spots on the gorget. Inseparable from Allen's, however the Rufous Hummingbird is a known vagrant and this bird was more probably a Rufous burred on this.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: _____

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

Lighting excellent. Estimated viewing distance 2-3' when at feeder and viewed from inside house. Also viewed at 15'-20' from outside house while at feeder. used Bausch + Lomb 7x35 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: None.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Golden Guide Birds of N. America

National Geographic Society Field Guide to Birds of North America
How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 24 hours

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

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Rufous Hummingbird, 1 imm male, 29 Sep 1984
 Chester, Howard Co., IA
 Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240

Other observers (with, before, after)

Sandford and Eleanor Tyler (with and before)

Francis Moore (called me), Bob Myers, Steve Dinsmore, et al
 Time: 3:10 to 4:50 PM (5-6 visits to feeder)

Habitat: At feeder in tiny Iowa hamlet, surrounding country side
 mostly flat open farmland.

"3:10, long straight bill, buffy reddish brown sides, light
 underparts, dark specks across lower throat, dark tail"

"3:26, buffy underparts form bib across upper breast, wings are
 irredescent greenish."

"4:25, rufous on rump, tip of tail black with small white mark."

"4:50, last seen before leaving"

From the front the bird had a definite large light throat area with
 flecks in the lower part of this area; the rusty bib extended
 across the breast and down the sides, but the lower belly was light
 gray. The upper face, head, bill and eye all appeared dark. The
 wings appeared green with black tips. The rump color was rusty, but
 I could not make out any rust on the back or wings (Tylers said
 they saw this earlier). The tail was probably rounded, but most of
 the time I saw the bird it was sitting on the feeder with tail
 pulled in; I could not tell whether the white on the tail was
 lateral or central. A non descript (Ruby-throated) hummingbird fed
 several times; its bill appeared similar in size and shape to the
 Rufous'.

Song: not heard.

Behavior: Flew onto dead limb of nearby tree, then to the feeder
 where it sat while feeding. Probably stayed about 20 seconds and
 then flew off abruptly.

Conditions (distance, light, optical equipment): 15 feet (closer
 than binocular focus); 10x binoculars, 420mm lens on camera; shady
 side of house.

Similar species: The rufous color would appear to eliminate all
 other species except Allen's, a species not known to be a vagrant
 to this area.

Agreement: yes

Previous experience: I have seen this species twice in Texas.

References/time used: none before quoted notes, then National
 Geographic Guide, then other guides after typing down to similar
 species.

Time of notes/typed: Notes after first three views; typed next
 morning.