

Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
16 Nov 1995  
Cedar Rapids, Linn Co., IA  
\*J. Fuller, \*T. Kent  
P-0475, IBL 66:22, 96

Record Number: 95-68  
Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATIONS

Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240 [\*3/24/96]  
Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246

PHOTOGRAPH

Thomas H. Kent, P-0475

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:22  
Records Committee: IBL 66:96

VOTE: 6 A-P, 1 A-D

A-P, The red-throat patch and range indicate a Ruby-thr. Hummingbird.

A-P, I agree with the Secretary that likelihood strongly favors Ruby-throat over other possibilities.

A-P, Red patch on throat precludes Black-chinned.

A-P, I'm inclined to call this a Rudy-throat, although technically, I suppose, it could be some other species. Not sure that experts can help here.

A-D, Photo could be either Ruby-throated or Black-chinned (even though Black-chinned not very likely in Iowa). Documentations describe Ruby-throated since the patch on the throat is described as red in color. Red color does not show in photo.

A-P, Based on measurements vs. feeder (I have an identical one!) this bird is almost certainly a Ruby-throated. There is no overlap in same sex bill length RT vs. BC; even in the photo the bill looks short. My measurements put bill at about 13 mm; all RT in range 15-19 1/2; all BC (female and male) 18-22 (Johnsgard). Thus, even if I'm off somewhat, very unlikely NOT a RT.

## DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

**Species:** Ruby-throated Hummingbird; **Number:** 1 imm. male

**Location:** 3350 Circle Drive, Cedar Rapids, IA

**Date:** 16 November 1995; **Time:** 8:15 to 9:00 a.m.

**Name and address:** Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

**Others before/with/after:** seen yesterday by Allen Martin; Jim and Jane Fuller with me.

**Habitat and circumstances:** residential area with variable woods; on feeder at back of deck.

**Description of bird:** We arrived at 7:30 and the owner put the feeder out. We could not pin him down on how long the bird had been coming to the feeder. He said that he but the feeder away, hoping that the bird would go south. But when he put it up, the bird would return. After about 45 minutes the bird made a brief appearance. As time went on it came in more often and stayed longer. I viewed it and took photos with a 560 mm lens mounted on a tripod. It was a slim hummingbird that seemed the right size for a Ruby-throated. The upper parts were green. The tail was black with a white tip to all tail feathers (photo). The under parts were off-white with gray-green on the flanks and an irregular round red patch centrally in the lower throat area. The bill was long, thin, and black. There was a small white area posterior to the eye. A dark elongated area extended from the eye to the auricular area and to the anterior neck. White extended around this area on the neck giving a collared effect. I did not see any tail pumping or hear the bird (Jim may have heard it). The tail appears to have a square tip in my photos.

**Voice:** not heard.

**Similar species:** This bird had no rufous, so *Selasphorus* hummingbirds are excluded. Anna's Hummingbird would be larger and have grayer underparts with heavier green on the flanks. According to Advanced Birding, Black-chinned females and immatures cannot be told from Ruby-throated except by having the bird in hand. I am labeling this bird as a Ruby-throated based on likelihood in Iowa.

**Any one have reservations?:** Jim Fuller shared the same concerns.

**Light:** early morning light with partial overcast and some sun later in the viewing period; **Distance:** 30 feet (guess);

**Optics:** camera with 560 mm lens on tripod (larger image than with my binocular).

**Previous experience:** I have seen many Ruby-throated and Black-chinned hummingbirds and a few Rufous Hummingbirds.

**References before/after viewing:** We looked at National Geographic Guide and Advanced Birding during and after the viewing period.

**Time of notes:** during viewing period; **Final typing:** 1 day

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## DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

**SPECIES:** ARCHILOCHUS HUMMINGBIRD (Sp.) Immature Male

**LOCATION:** Gary Heiberger residence, 3350 Circle Drive, NE, Cedar Rapids (Linn County)

**DATE & TIME:** 16 November, 1995 (7:55-8:45 AM)

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

**OTHERS:** Tom Kent and Jane Fuller were with me. Seen the previous day by Allen Martin.

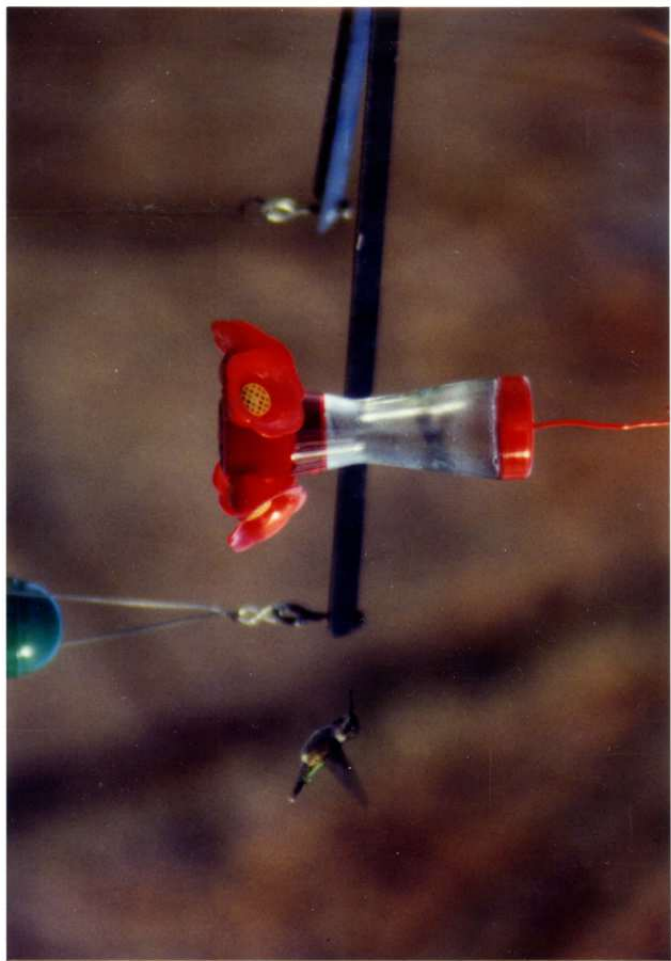
**BACKGROUND:** Allen Martin reported to the Iowa Birdline that he had observed a hummingbird at this location the previous morning. He had received the information that a hummingbird had been visiting a feeder here for several weeks from personnel at Wildlife Habitat. We arrived at 7:30 AM, and the homeowner hung out the feeder. About 25 minutes later, the bird made a very brief appearance. During the following 55 minutes, it appeared at the feeder and in a nearby tree four more times for periods ranging from 10-60 seconds.

**DESCRIPTION:** This was a small hummingbird with an all green back and crown and generally white (not gray) underparts. There was a greenish wash on the belly on either side, which did not meet in the middle. The side of the head was white almost to the eye level, and there was a brief white band that extended around toward the nape. The bill was black, and appeared to be thin and straight, and its length was about the same as the width of the bird's head. The eye was dark. The folded wing was dark gray-green. Centered on the white throat was a more-or-less circular area which was red in color. When the tail was spread, it could be seen that the tips of the outer two or three tail feathers exhibited quite a bit of white. It could not be determined what the shape of the tips of these feathers was, nor how many showed white. No voice was heard.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** Anna's Hummingbird has gray (not white) underparts. Kaufman's "Advanced Birding" suggests that female and immature male Ruby-throated and Black-chinned cannot be identified except in the hand. This bird may have been molting into first alternate plumage, because of the red circular area on the throat. It would seem that an area such as this would be red in a Ruby-throat and purple in a Black-chinned.

**OPTICS & CONDITIONS:** The day was mostly cloudy. We were there early in the morning looking toward the northeast using Swift Audubon (8.5 X 44) binoculars at a distance of about 25-30 feet.

**REFERENCES & FIELD NOTES:** Field notes were written down by Jane Fuller as I dictated in the car immediately after the sighting. The National Geographic Field Guide and Kaufman's "Advanced Birding" were studied that same evening. This form was typed on 26 November.



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