

Rufous Hummingbird

29 Jul 1987

St. Olaf, Clayton Co., IA

*Larry Stone

to 3 Aug, color photo; IBL 58:20, 74, Stone 1988

Record Number: 87-25

Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATION

Larry Stone

PHOTOGRAPHS

Larry Stone, P-0227 (IBL 87-25)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: 58:20

Stone, L. 1988. Another Rufous Hummingbird in Clayton Co. IBL 58:27

Photograph: IBL 58:27 (P-0227)

Records Committee: IBL 58:74

VOTE: 6-I-P, 1-III

I-P, Larry might even be a bit Rufous-faced if it doesn't show up next year.

I-P, Male. Excellent photos that showed rufous back.

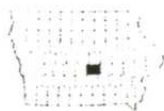
I-P, Photo showed enough detail to make this a Rufous Hummingbird and not just a Seladphorus sp.

I-P, Obviously the several Rufous sightings in St. Olaf can be explained as escapees from one of the large hummingbird breeders in northeast Iowa.

III, I wish we'd voted on the photos at the fall meeting. By now I can't remember them. If we're supposed to vote on them, why do we wait until months later?

GROOVE-BILLED ANI IN JASPER COUNTY

DARWIN KOENIG



At 5:30 p.m. on 19 Oct 1987, I flushed a Groove-billed Ani from a patch of prairie vegetation in the Jacob Krumm Wildlife Area in Jasper Co. The bird was foraging on the ground among the prairie grasses when it flushed and flew to a low tree branch about 20 feet from where I was standing. The ani was observed for about 20 minutes at distances of 10 to 300 feet.

It was approximately the size of a Common Grackle with all black plumage, long floppy tail, and a thick puffin-like bill. The ridge of the upper mandible was slightly lower than the crown of the head and did not curve sharply downward to meet the forehead (unlike the Smooth-billed Ani which has a high-ridged upper mandible, higher than the crown and curving sharply downward to meet the forehead). I did not notice any grooves on the bill during my first observation, but did on later observations. The ani was subsequently seen by numerous observers and photographed. It was still present at the area on 25 November.

This is the third known record of an ani in Iowa. Musgrove (1948) reported on a specimen of a Groove-billed Ani in a private collection in Osceola Co. A Smooth-billed Ani was reported on 22 Oct 1966 from Cedar Rapids (Brown 1971). Both of these records were lacking in details and were later listed as Ani species (Dinsmore et al. 1984).

LITERATURE CITED

- Brown, W. H. 1971. An annotated list of the birds of Iowa. Iowa State J. Sci. 45:387-469.
Dinsmore, J. J. et al. 1984. Iowa Birds. Ames: Iowa State University Press.
Musgrove, J. W. 1948. The Groove-billed Ani and Mountain Bluebird specimens in Iowa collection. Iowa Bird Life. 18:70.

Box 389, Montezuma, IA 50171



Groove-billed Ani, Jacob Krumm Wildlife Area, 22 October 1987. Photo by Bob Myers.



Drawing by Brian Blewins.

ANOTHER RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN CLAYTON CO.

LARRY STONE

When a strange looking hummingbird visited our feeder in St. Olaf on 10-11 July 1986, I at first tried to dismiss the bird as an atypical Ruby-throated, but we later documented it as the first Rufous Hummingbird for Iowa (Stone 1986).

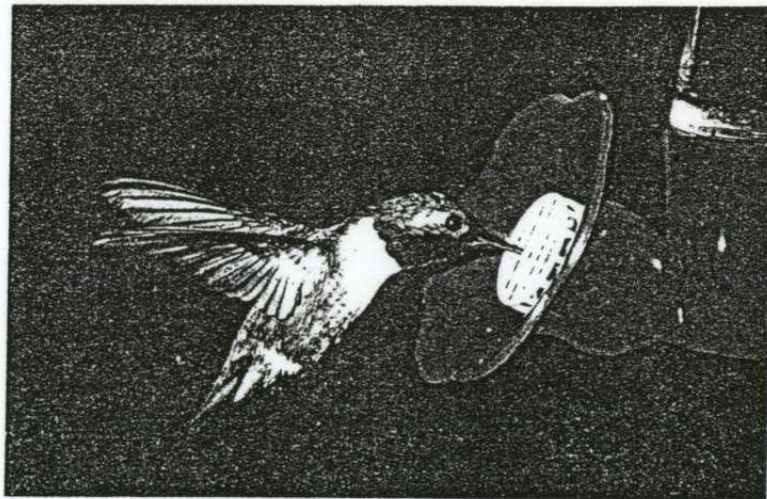
When another Rufous Hummingbird (perhaps the same one as last year?) came to St. Olaf this year, we were able to identify it immediately. This distinctive adult male bird had rusty-bronze plumage on its back, tail, and head. The contrast with the emerald-green Ruby-throateds that also use the feeder was obvious. The gorget was bright, and more orange than on Ruby-throateds and this bird also seemed plumper.

The Rufous was first seen about noon on 29 July, and was last observed about 8 a.m. on 3 August. It apparently visited the feeder periodically for nearly five days, although we were gone part of the time and were unable to keep detailed records. Usually the bird came to a sugar-water feeder a few inches outside a kitchen window, within easy viewing distance of people seated at a table inside. Frequently the Rufous perched in a honeysuckle bush near the feeder, or in an arborvitae tree several yards away. It was relatively tame allowing people to approach to within 15 feet. Assuming the bird was the same one that we saw in 1986, we'll be watching in anticipation of its return in 1988!

LITERATURE CITED

- Stone, L. 1986. Rufous Hummingbird in Clayton County. Iowa Bird Life 56:121-122.

Box 68, St. Olaf, IA 52072



Rufous Hummingbird, St. Olaf, 30 July 1987. Photo by Larry Stone.

87-25

v
Box 68
St. Olaf
IA 52072
Oct. 21, 1987

James Dinsmore
Dept. of Animal Ecology
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011

Dear Jim:

Sorry to be so slow to reply to your request for details about our rufous hummingbird sighting. Hope the following will help.

When a rufous hummingbird visited our sugar-water feeder on July 10, 1986, I at first tried to dismiss the bird as an atypical ruby-throat. But we later documented it as the first rufous from Iowa.

But when a rufous hummingbird (perhaps the same one as last year?) came to St. Olaf on July 29, 1987, my family immediately identified it.

The distinctive bird had a rusty-bronze plumage on its back, tail and head. (The contrast with the emerald-green ruby-throats that had been using the feeder was obvious.) The gorget was bright, and more orange than on ruby-throats. The rufous also seemed plumper than a ruby-throat. (See enclosed photo.)

The bird was first seen about noon July 29, and was last observed about 8 a.m. on Aug. 3. It apparently visited the feeder periodically for nearly five days, although we didn't keep careful records because we had house guests and were away from home part of that time.

Usually, the rufous came to a sugar-water feeder a few inches outside a kitchen window, within easy viewing distance of people seated at a table inside.

Frequently, the bird perched in a honeysuckle bush near the feeder, or in an arbor vitae several yards away. It was relatively tame, allowing people to approach within 15 feet or less.

Assuming the bird was the same one that we saw in 1986, we'll be watching in anticipation of its return in 1988!

Sincerely,

Larry Stone