

Dec 30, 1996

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Nick

I am enclosing a report <sup>to P.O.R.C.</sup> from  
Robert Taylor of Blairs Mills, Huntingdon Co  
of two interesting hummingbirds he observed  
on Sept 7, the day after ~~the~~ Hur. FRAN.

Any questions - contact me at address or  
phone # below. Robert Taylor is out of  
the state until Spring.

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And then there was FRAN. She arrived with much fanfare on Friday, September 6th, with moderate rain mixed with occasional downpours during the day, changing to torrential rains with very high winds in the evening. I was out in the late afternoon and there were two gulls and a tern at various times, careening about like drunken sailors, but identification wasn't possible under the circumstances.

By morning, the village was flooded after about nine inches of rain, with a lot of downed trees, and I was out to see if our elderly neighbors might need help. Noticable was the total lack of birds. Our single resident Ruby Throat and one lone very bedraggled robin were the only birds I could find in the entire village area.

Returning, I approached the house from the back and saw a reddish brown hummingbird feeding at the flowers in the yard. I watched it work its way along and disappear around the south side of the house. I went around the north side and found it or another one at the feeder on the porch. Shortly a second hummer joined the one at the feeder. For at least two minutes, they fed. Our resident feeder guardian [a female Ruby Throat] tried her best to drive them away, but was totally ignored, so she joined them for breakfast. The two sat on opposite sides of the feeder, so that I saw them in profile. They preened a bit and then sat quietly for over nine minutes, fed a bit more, and together they flew south along the flooded creek, and did not return, to the best of my knowledge.

The top of the heads of both birds were a rather dull greenish-brown. The one on the right was bright reddish-brown from the back of the head, down the back and on the tail. The flanks were also this color, though lighter, and the breast, belly and chin were white, and there were white spots on the outer tail feather tips. There was no indication of a gorget. The one on the left was much the same with the exception that the head color extended down the back and only the rump, tail and flanks were reddish. [Perhaps reddish

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is not the best word - the color appeared much as the color of a brown thrasher with just a little more red added] At the feeder all three birds appeared the same length, but our Ruby Throat is a slim female, while the strangers were rounder and stubbier looking.

I believe these were a juvenile male and female Rufous Hummingbird. I spent a few days last year studying this species and the Calliope at feeders in Port Angeles, Washington, where they were common and nesting. The total lack of any indication of a gorget had me puzzled, and of course the Port Angeles birds were not in their bright new fall plumage and were not as clean as these two. Perhaps Bent answers the gorget question when he says "....I have seen one young male, taken as late as March 17, that still shows no red in the throat....".

I find it hard to beleive that these birds were storm delivered, but then how could one tell? I feel that this is a solid identification as I was using 8.5x glasses from about 25 feet, but you will have to be the final judge of that.

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

Date of Sighting: 7 September 1996 to 7 September 1996

Location: BLAIRS MILLS

County: HUNTINGDON

Observer(s): Robert Taylor

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Robert Taylor

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella				X				
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes				X				
G. McWilliams				X				
P. Schwalbe						X		
S. Feldstein				X				
TOTALS			2	4		1		
DECISION								

Comments:

*Rufous/Allen's seems to be the winner.*

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

