



**PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE**  
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

12 February 2002

Peter Robinson  
P.O. Box 482  
Hanover, PA 17331

Dear Peter,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the following five records. After careful review, the Committee regrets that it has voted not to accept them.

**Red-necked Phalarope, Codorus State Park, 7 September 1999:** Members' opinions were divided, and the balloting went two rounds (which partly accounts for our delay in informing you of the result). The final vote was five in favor of acceptance and two not in favor. The Committee's bylaws require a vote of 6-1 to accept a record.

The majority had no doubt about the identification, but the two dissenters felt that a written description was essential to confirm what appeared to be a relatively thin and pointed bill, plus upperparts separating the bird conclusively from a Red Phalarope molting from juv. to first winter plumage. One member was not certain whether a possible white stripe which might be half of a Red-necked "V" pattern was not actually something white on the water behind the bird.

**Little Gull, Bainbridge, 25 October 1998:** As with the phalarope, balloting went two rounds and the final vote was four favoring acceptance and three not in favor.

The three members who dissented, as well as some of those who did vote to accept it, expressed concern that while the brief description did suggest a Little Gull, the details were not quite sufficient for them to make conclusive identification.

**Chuck-will's-widow, Adams County, 8 May 1999 (John Clarke):** The vote was two in favor of acceptance and five not in favor. Those who voted against acceptance felt that without a description of the call, there was no basis for evaluating the record.

We emphasize that our non-acceptance does not mean John does not know the difference between the call of Chuck-will's-widow and a Whip-poor-will, or that he misidentified the bird. Rather it represents a majority of the Committee's opinion that the report could not be judged at all.

If you pass this decision along to John, please tell him that the Committee hopes the decision in this case does not discourage him from submitting reports of rarities in the future.

**Rufous Hummingbird, Boyertown, September-December 1998:** Balloting went two rounds, with a final vote of four in favor of acceptance and three not in favor. As I noted above, the Committee's bylaws require a minimum 6-1 vote for accepting a record.

The dissenters' opinions revolved around one issue: whether enough of the back and crown were visible to separate this adult male from an adult male Allen's of the "orange" extreme. The majority felt that enough could be seen, and the minority felt that the areas visible were not sufficient to rule out Allen's with certainty.

Several members commented that this was an excellent example of the reason why a detailed written description should always accompany photographs. It probably would have cleared up the doubts.

**Brewer's Blackbird, Presque Isle State Park, 17 October 1999:** The vote was one in favor of acceptance and six not in favor. The majority felt that the bird was most likely a Brewer's but that the brief details did not completely rule out other species, particularly female Brown-headed Cowbird.

The record was placed in the Committee's Class IV-A: "a record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of an observer's identification; the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt."

Naturally, non-acceptance does not mean that any of these bird were not identified correctly, but rather that some members felt that without an accompanying descriptions their concerns could not be resolved. We trust that these results do not discourage you from submitting reports of future rarities, and we urge all birders to include a written description even with a photograph that may appear to be diagnostic.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:  
Paul Hess, Chairman

Record Nos. 330-04-1999 (Red-necked Phalarope), 339-03-1998 (Little Gull), 463-01-1999 (Chuck-will's-widow), 495-01-1998 (Rufous Hummingbird), 861-07-1999 (Brewer's Blackbird)

495-01-1998

P. O. Box 482  
1336 Broadway  
Hanover, PA 17331  
19 March 1999

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
C/O Frank Haas  
2469 Hammertown Road  
Narvon, PA 17555-9726

Dear PORC:

The following belated report is based upon my own notes, made at the time of the observation, offered now in case no one else submitted documentation, or in case the additional documentation is of some benefit.

Species: Rufous Hummingbird (male)

Date/Time: 15 October 1998. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM.

Location: Berks County, PA. Keim's Orchard, Poplar Road, just west of Boyertown.

Weather:


Observer: Peter Robinson

Camera: Canon ES 3000 High Resolution 8 MM, with 20X optical zoom lens.

Observation: Please see video film.

Comments: This bird was reported a week ago on the PA Birds Listserve.

Sincerely,



Peter Robinson  
717.632.8462  
peterrobins@hotmail.com

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round One**

Species: Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

Date of Sighting: 15 September 1998 to 31 December 1998

Location: BOYERTOWN

County: BERKS

Observer(s): Rick Wiltraut, Bill Uhrich, Peter Robinson

Date of Submission: 1998

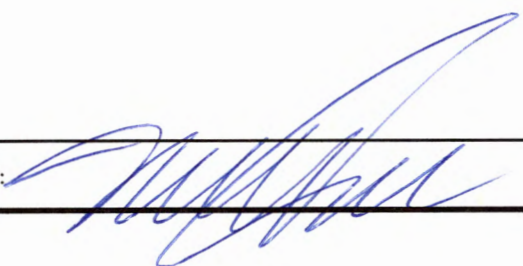
Submitted by: Rick Wiltraut, Bill Uhrich, Peter Robinson

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION NO PHOTO YES SPECIMEN NO RECORDING VIDEO

| Member        | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A |            |            |         | Abstain |
|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
|               |         |          |           |            | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V |         |
| D. Couchman   | X       |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |
| T. Floyd      |         |          |           |            |            |            |         | X       |
| P. Hess       |         |          |           |            | X          |            |         |         |
| R. Ickes      | X       |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |
| J. McWilliams |         |          |           | X          |            |            |         |         |
| B. Reid       | X       |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |
| P. Rodewald   | X       |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |
| TOTALS        | 4       |          |           | 1          | 1          |            |         | 1       |
| DECISION      |         |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |

Comments: 4-2-1 2nd round

Accept as Rufous/Allen's

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 9/18/00

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round Two**

Species: Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

Date of Sighting: 15 September 1998 to 15 September 1998

Location: BOYERTOWN

County: BERKS

Observer(s): Rick Wiltraut, Bill Uhrich, Peter Robinson

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: Rick Wiltraut, Bill Uhrich, Peter Robinson

Written Description: No

Photo: Yes

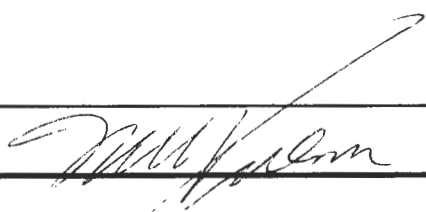
Specimen: No

Recording: Video

| Member        | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A |            |            |         | Abstain |
|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
|               |         |          |           |            | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V |         |
| D. Couchman   | X       |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |
| G. Armistead  | X       |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |
| P. Hess       |         |          |           |            | X          |            |         |         |
| R. Ickes      | X       |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |
| J. McWilliams |         |          |           | X          |            |            |         |         |
| B. Reid       |         |          |           | X          |            |            |         |         |
| P. Rodewald   | X       |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |
| TOTALS        | 4       |          |           | 2          | 1          |            |         |         |
| DECISION      |         |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |

Comments: 4/3/0 rejected  
 Accept as Rufous-Alexis

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 10/21/01