





495-01-2003

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Species (common & scientific): Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufous*) (probable)

Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex(es):** Female

Age(s) & Plumage(s): Immature

Date Seen: 11/18/03 **Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Where Seen (Town/County): Hilltown Twp., Bucks Co.

Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake): 234 Upper Church Rd.

Observer Reporting:

Name: August Mirabella

Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

E-mail: augustmirabella@aol.com

Telephone (optional): 215-368-0594

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you): Judy Mirabella

The bird was found by homeowners Kelly Cern and Bob Tompkins on 10/25 and seen by a few privileged birders over the next week or so. The general feeling based on the video & photos was that it was a Rufous. The owners did not want their property open to birders.

Distance to Bird: 25 feet

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Cloudy.

Optical Equipment Used: Leica APO77 Zoom 20-60x Scope and Zeiss 7X42 Bins.

Habitat: Backyard in semi rural area with open lawn, surrounded by trees, shrubs, evergreens, and a man made pond with waterfall. Two feeders and insects on warmer days.

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage; bill, eye, & leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): A small hummer with mainly green upper parts, i.e. head, back, rump, and center of tail. Some very slight rufous areas appear in the photos on the upper parts and face. The outer tail feathers were rufous at the base. The black bars on the tail feathers were seen when the bird flared its tail, as were the white tips to the outer three tail feathers. The pale rufous wash was obvious on the flanks and, in the photo, on the under tail coverts. The rest of the breast and belly were whitish. The throat was spotted with the heaviest at the lower edge. The biggest spots were in the lower center but no red iridescence was seen. The basis for leaning toward Rufous comes from video and photos. The notched feather (r2) can be seen in the tail end photo. It does not appear to be narrow as in Allen's. In the video, the outer feather (r5) appears broad also but is blurred. Based on the probabilities, and the above features, it in all likelihood is a Rufous.

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Feeding about every 20 minutes at the feeder.

Vocalizations: none

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report):

Photo: Yes **Video Recording:** Yes **Audio Recording:** **Drawing:**

Name, Address, e-mail, telephone (optional) of photographer, etc.

Video: D. Farbotnik- PO Box 135, Revere, PA 18953 (I assume he will submit video)

Photos: Jim Glick – address not available at this time -Photos (6) were submitted to Nick Pulcinella attached to an e-mail.

Separation from Similar Species (How you eliminated others): The notch on r2 in the photo and broad looking r2 & r5 in photo & video makes it most likely a Rufous as Allen's has narrower tail feathers and little or no notch. Broad-tailed Hummingbird would have a broader tail and the reddish coloration on the tail feathers would not be completely across each feather. It probably wouldn't have any reddish areas on the upper parts that are visible in the photos of our bird.

Discussion (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it): The photos were shown to Matt Sharp & Paul Lehman and the video to the latter and both felt that it was a Rufous based on the tail feathers.

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species: Have seen several Rufous but no expertise in separating female Rufous/Allen's except from info in field guides and the internet.

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not): The literature indicates that in the case of immature female Rufous/Allen Hummingbirds, they cannot be identified without being captured and measured. Thus, if that is true, I cannot be positive. However, the tail evidence indicated above appears to me to be very strong and considering the probability, makes Rufous the choice.

References:

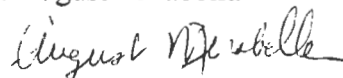
During Observation: Sibley Guide to Birds

After Observation: Sibley Guide to Birds, videotape, photos, and

<http://home.earthlink.net/~zoiseaux/frames.html>

Date of report: 12/27/03

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Rufous Hummingbird (Selasphorus rufus)

Date of Sighting: 18 November 2003 to 2003

Location: HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): August Mirabella et.al

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: August Mirabella, Nick Pulcinella

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

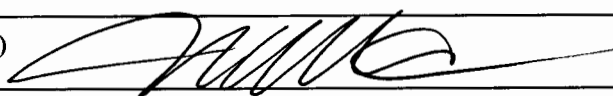
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead <i>W. Trout</i>	X							
D. Heathcote <i>C. Curran</i>	X							
P. Guris								
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman <i>H. Heller</i>	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	6							
DECISION	X							

Comments: *C/O*

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

7/27/06