

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

6 February 2002

Larry Brown, Sr.
RR #2 Box 187
Millerton, PA 16936

Dear Larry

Thank you for submitting documentation on the hummingbird you observed at Jackson Township on 9 June 2000. After careful review, the Committee regrets that it has voted not to accept this record.

The vote was unanimous, and all of the members felt that the details provided were insufficient for a conclusive identification -- especially for a first state record of a species difficult to separate from Rufous and perhaps other hummingbird species.

All authorities consider measurement of the retrices the only diagnostic method of separating Allen's from Rufous. The green back color is present in some adult Rufous, and the two species can look exactly alike to the eye. The members found the "J" flight description indicative, but needed information about whether there was a shrill noise of the wings at the end of the dive. One member noted in addition that no information was provided about the color and shape of the gorget.

Ultimately, it is unlikely the state's first Allen's record would be accepted in any case except by a specimen or a bird in hand enabling determination of the diagnostic tail "formula."

The Committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean the bird was not an Allen's, but rather that we did not find the description conclusive for this difficult species.

We hope this will not discourage you from submitting reports of rarities in the future.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

Record No. 496-01-2000

496-01-2000

RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sialis*) Date of this Observation: 10 June 2000Date Found: 9 June Last Date Seen: 10 JuneLocation: Hummingbird feeders behind our house Jobs Corners PATownship/City: Jackson Twnshp County: 7106APerson Writing this report: Larry Brown SRAddress: RR #2 Box 127, Millerton, PA 16936lbrown@altavista.net Phone: 570 537 2730Other Observers: ArleneWho found the bird first: Larry Brown

Other documentation included: (Circle all appropriate items)(Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

Photograph

Audio Recording

Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored? _____

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed—Please do not write on back of this form)

We lived in Southern California while I was stationed at Home Beach, CA, and because there often and records 7-8 species of Hummers, once back in Pennsylvania we reverted to writing off all Hummers as Ruby-throated. Even of 9 June 2000 on the deck Cedar Wax wings are in the airway sparrow eating the small green caterpillars that we have plenty of. I had video taped some of this activity sat back to just watch, Hummers were working the feeders many other bird bugs. The main Hummer feeder is less than 10 feet away and being used I note two males buening each other one stops to take on fuel. NOT a Ruby-throated - I said Rufous at first but when he stopped a few moments later and perched on the feeder I could see the green back, Brownish tail breast is very light but in comparison to the Ruby-throated male he was doing flight with it is not white* none of my attempts to video tape this bird have yet been successful. Noted also a difference in display this guy takes a high dive off one end of his "U" making it a "J". Note in on the deck writing the report on the strike observation, this Allen's male comes within inches of my nose. I do not see the brownish area behind eye to back of the head it appears more like green of back right up over the head leaving no distinct green cap. Arlene, has only observed the different display J vs U thus far she has not observed the bird at rest. This bird returned on 12th June, I have not observed it since the 12th.

* Ruby along sides but very light.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)

Date of Sighting: 9 June 2000 to 12 June 2000

Location: JOBS CORNER

County: TIOGA

Observer(s): Larry Brown

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Larry Brown

Written Description: Yes

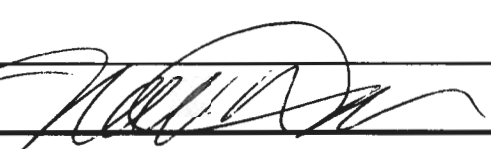
Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead					X			
D. Couchman				X				
P. Hess					X			
R. Ickes				X				
B. Reid					X			
P. Rodewald <i>R. Liberman</i>				X				
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS				4	3			
DECISION				X				

Comments: 0/7

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 11/25/00