

The Hummingbird Invasion of 2002: Issues of Identification

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Introduction

Extralimital records of hummingbirds in the eastern United States are increasing in frequency, as are the numbers of species being documented. As of this writing, rufous-type (genus *Selasphorus*) hummingbirds have been reported from 33 states and at least 250 counties or parishes east of their normal ranges during fall 2002! While hummingbirds are quite easy to recognize as to family, and normally to species as adult males, subadults and females represent the majority of vagrants. Identification of these birds is often far from straightforward.

The ruby-throated hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* is the only hummingbird that breeds east of the Mississippi River and is common throughout Ohio. Ruby-throated hummingbirds normally return in late April and early May and, more significantly to those interested in western vagrant hummingbirds, depart by early October (Peterjohn 2001). Any hummingbird seen after mid-October in Ohio should be studied carefully, as it may more likely be one of the western species than a ruby-throated.

Ohio's first documented non-ruby-throated hummingbird was a rufous hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* that appeared at a feeder on 15 August 1985 in Westerville, Franklin County (Peterjohn 1986). This bird was an adult male, as have been the majority of the approximately 14 additional Ohio records of this species since that time and before 2002 (Table). In addition, there are four records from 1985-2001 of birds that could be identified only to the *Selasphorus* genus (Table), which in North America is composed of rufous hummingbird, Allen's hummingbird *S. sasin*, and broad-tailed hummingbird *S. platycercus*. Broad-tailed was eliminated in all cases based on plumage details and structure, leaving these birds as either rufous or Allen's hummingbirds.

Ohio's relatively recent—lasting less than two decades—trend of increasing non-ruby-throated hummingbirds mirrors that of most states east of the Mississippi River. No one seems sure as to the cause of this invasion of western hummingbirds, but multiple factors are probably involved. Possible reasons include a proliferation of hummingbird feeders that attract birds to places where they are easily observed, and increased observer awareness of vagrant hummingbirds. Another factor may be advances in hardy flowering horticultural plants that hold their blooms later into fall and even early winter. Hummingbirds are extremely mobile, and it is possible that increasing numbers are being induced to stray eastward by these food sources.

Whatever the reasons, there is no question that more non-ruby-throated hummingbirds are being reported in Ohio, and 2002 has by far been the best year. In addition to the regularly occurring ruby-throateds, there have been nine confirmed rufous hummingbirds (Table), three rufous/Allen's hummingbirds for which we are awaiting further information (Table), and the first state record Calliope hummingbird *Stellula calliope*. In addition, two confirmed ruby-throated hummingbirds stayed in Ohio in 2002 until the record-breaking late date of 30 November.

Outlined below are details of three of these birds. Each example is instructive in its own way.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*

Logan County, 19 September – at least 31 December 2002

Until 2002, only two female rufous hummingbirds had been documented in Ohio. This bird (Figures 1, 2) appeared at the home of Donna and Tim Daniel in Logan County, and they immediately recognized it as different from the ruby-throated hummingbirds that also frequented the feeders. In addition to morphological features that differentiated it from ruby-throated hummingbird, this individual displayed the aggressiveness typical of rufous hummingbird (Calder 1993), driving off other hummingbirds and dominating the feeders.

As an example of how difficult identification of immature and female hummingbirds can be, one hummingbird specialist initially identified pictures of this bird as of a probable juvenile ruby-throated hummingbird. However, while its identification was not nearly so straightforward as that of an adult male would have been, when seen in the field this bird was clearly an immature or female *Selasphorus*.

Identification of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds other than adult males is probably one of the most vexing problems facing Ohio ornithologists. Even adult males are not necessarily straightforward: up to 1-2% of adult male rufous hummingbirds, for example, have all-green backs, a feature shared by adult male Allen's hummingbirds (Howell 2002). Diagnostic features as to species of immatures, adult females, and green-backed adult males are difficult, if not impossible, to discern without having the bird in hand. However, photographs may permit conclusive identification in some cases. In order to identify properly hummingbirds in any genus it is critical to age and sex each individual accurately. Ortiz-Crespo (1972) developed criteria for accurate



Figure 1. Adult female rufous hummingbird in Logan County. Note centrally located gorget feathers. Photo by Tim Daniel on 12 December 2002.

Table. All Ohio records of rufous or rufous/Allen's (R/A) hummingbirds.

Year	Date(s)	County	Species	Age	Sex
1985	15-18 August	Franklin	Rufous	Adult	Male
1986					
1987	23-30 August	Trumbull	Rufous	Adult	Male
	5-10 November	Cuyahoga	Rufous	Adult	Male
1988					
1989	9-10 August	Franklin	Rufous	Adult	Male
1990					
1991	25 July [†]	Guernsey	Rufous	Adult	Male
1992	15 October–1 December [†]	Lucas	Rufous	Adult	Male
1993	2 November	Clermont	Rufous	?	Female
1994					
1995	29 April–1 May	Lake	Rufous	Adult	Male
	11-14 September	Holmes	Rufous	Adult	Male
1996	18 September–26 October +	Wood	Rufous	Adult	Male
1997	4 January [†]	Holmes	Rufous	Adult	Male
	10 June	Lake	Rufous	Adult	Male
	early October–9 November +	Licking	R/A	?	?
1998	24-30 November	Lake	Rufous	Adult	Female
1999					
2000	6-9 September	Wayne	Rufous	Adult	Male
	5 October +	Ashtabula	R/A	?	?
	early November–12 December	Clermont	R/A	?	?
2001	6 November +	Adams	Rufous	Imm.	Male
	5-22 December +	Hamilton	R/A	Adult	Female
2002	25 August	Lake	R/A	?	?
	23 October	Carroll	Rufous	Adult	Male
	7 October–10 November	Holmes	R/A	?	?
	24 October–5 December	Carroll	Rufous	Adult	Female
	27 October–6 December	Franklin	Rufous	Adult	Female
	15 October–8 December	Hamilton	Rufous	Adult	Male
	late October–28 December	Clermont	Rufous	Adult	Female
	17 November–29 December	Hamilton	R/A	Imm.	Male
	19 September–31 December +	Logan	Rufous	Adult	Female
	? September–31 December +	Wayne	Rufous	Adult	Male
	? October–31 December +	Wayne	Rufous	Imm.	Female
	? November–31 December +	Adams	Rufous	Adult	Female

+ = undetermined length of stay; present beyond period cited.

† = specimen.

? = details unknown.

age determination of subadult hummingbirds that involve the extent of roughened corrugations along the upper mandible. Almost the entire length of the mandible is corrugated in immature birds, whereas adults have few or no corrugations. In addition, immatures show fresher plumages in fall than adults (Howell 2002). Diagnostic sexual characters are more difficult to determine without the bird in hand, as they involve wing-chord measurements, tail patterns, and overall size.

Certain details can aid in age and sex determination of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds with extremely good views or photographs. For instance, immature males tend to show more rufous coloration, especially on the face and rump, than females of any age (Heidcamp 1997). The throat pattern should also be examined. Throats of immature males are usually more patterned with extensive, uniformly distributed spots. They should also show some iridescent red feathers at the edges of the gorget during fall. Such feathers on female *Selasphorus* hummingbirds are usually concentrated at the center of the throat when present (Figure 1, Williamson 2001). See Stiles (1972) and Heidcamp (1997) for a detailed discussion on age and sex determination as well as information regarding intraspecific variation in *Selasphorus* hummingbirds.

Fortunately, the Logan County bird was captured and banded (band #R(4000)52347) on 26 September 2002 by Allen Chartier of Inkster, Michigan. In-hand observations and measurements showed it to be an adult female rufous hummingbird. Critical features included the relative lack of corrugations on the upper mandible, a wing chord of 45.85 mm, and a bill length of 17.9 mm. Additionally, this individual displayed seven iridescent gorget feathers concentrated near the center of the throat. Ruby-throated hummingbirds almost never show colored gorget feathers in female plumages.

Mitchell (2000) states that females and immatures of two *Selasphorus* species can be distinguished only in the hand. In-hand separation of rufous hummingbird from Allen's hummingbird is tricky, and depends on close examination of two tail feathers, R2 and R5 (Pyle 1997). In rufous, the tip of R2 is notched and R5 is between 2.8 and 4.0 mm in width. In Allen's, R2 is tapered or pointed and R5 has a width range of 2.0-2.7 mm. The Logan County bird had a notched R2 (Figure 2) and an R5 width of 3.49 mm, clearly establishing the identification as rufous hummingbird. In addition, its wing chord of 45.85 mm is beyond any Allen's, and in the range for female rufous (42.6-46.6 mm). Other characteristics can assist in the identification

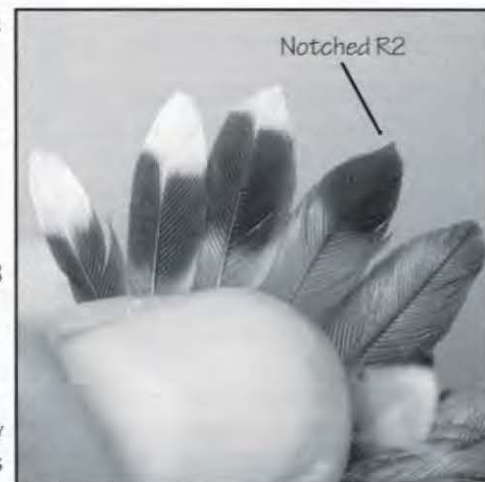


Figure 2. Diagnostic tail features of the adult female rufous hummingbird in Logan County. Photo by Allen Chartier on 26 September 2002.

of birds in this genus, and both Williamson (2001) and Howell (2002) discuss these in depth.

The possibility of broad-tailed hummingbird should also be considered, but this larger species is readily eliminated by the others' measurements, all well under what should be exhibited by a female broad-tailed. Furthermore, broad-tailed hummingbird shows a different tail morphology in the field, being noticeably longer and broader than the other *Selasphorus* (Sibley 2000).

The Logan County hummingbird provides an important contribution to Ohio ornithology in that it is one of few *Selasphorus* females indisputably proven to be a rufous. Differences between this species and its congener Allen's hummingbird are slight enough in females and immatures that the value even of high-magnification photography in the field as a tool to conclusively establish identification remains to be proven.

Calliope Hummingbird *Stellula calliope* Ross County, 28 October – 1 November 2002

This was the first Ohio record of this species, and the first from the Midwest. Until 5 November 2002, when Pennsylvania documented its first record, no state adjacent to Ohio had yet recorded this species. There are few records east of the Mississippi River and north of the Gulf coast states, but Calliopes have also been found in Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Unfortunately, the Ohio bird was not widely seen, as it died while being banded and before permission could be obtained for the birding community to visit the site.

Jean Foor first saw this bird on 28 October 2002 as it flew around her suburban Chillicothe yard, apparently attracted to the numerous flowering plants still in bloom. As a birder, she knew a hummingbird so late in the season was likely to be something odd. She set up a nectar feeder the following day, and the bird was soon making regular visits. The next day, she notified local birder Bill Bosstic, who in turn emailed a few photos (Figures 3, 4) of the bird to McCormac and Michigan hummingbird specialist Allen Chartier.

As in the case of the above-cited rufous hummingbird, interpretations from photos can vary, and first impressions may depend on the type of field experience one has. Those, like banders, who are accustomed to identifying birds in the hand often apply very different skills and corre-



Figure 3. Immature male Calliope hummingbird in Ross County. Note long wing extension beyond tail and entirely dark spatulate-shaped central tail feathers. Photo by Bill Bosstic and Joe McMahon on 30 October 2002.

sponding ID criteria than do experienced field birders, who are more comfortable identifying birds at least in part by characteristics such as behavior, jizz, vocalizations, etc. In this case initial identifications of this bird, even based on photos alone, differed. Some, including most birders, thought it was a Calliope, while others felt it was most likely a *Selasphorus*.

A visit to the site, intended to verify the continuing presence of the bird, examine it further, and secure permission for the public to visit, was arranged for 1 November. Bosstic had also invited Chartier to Chillicothe, and he planned to arrive by noon the same day. On the morning of 1 November, the authors and others arrived at Mrs. Foor's home to find the hummingbird at the feeder, allowing close views for a minute or so before disappearing. It continued this pattern of returning to the feeder for brief feedings about every 20-25 minutes. About an hour later Chartier arrived, just after the hummingbird had made an appearance. After the bird had made one more visit, Chartier quickly placed his trap around the feeder.

After momentary confusion, the hummingbird figured out how to access the feeder by entering the trap, and was caught. All seemed well as Chartier worked with and photographed (Figures 5, 6) the bird, until with very few warning signs, the bird expired in his hand. It was confirmed via measurements that the bird was a Calliope hummingbird, confirming the conclusion most observers had reached after observing it visiting the feeder earlier.

So, was it really necessary to catch this bird to verify its identity? The authors do not think so. Given good views, Calliope hummingbird is one of the more easily identified among immature and female North American hummingbirds. The fact that most of the birders who viewed the photos (Figures 3, 4) prior to the bird's capture agreed it was a Calliope bears this out. Furthermore, observers were



Figure 4. Immature male Calliope hummingbird in Ross County. Note very slender bill, as well as long wing projection beyond tail. Photo by Bill Bosstic and Joe McMahon on 30 October 2002.



Figure 5. Tail features of the immature male Calliope hummingbird in Ross County. Note entirely dark spatulate-shaped central tail feathers. Photo by Allen Chartier on 1 November 2002.

in position to obtain close-up digiscoped photos, and no doubt could have gotten very good images of the bird prior to its capture. On the other hand, some felt that capturing it was the certain way to make a positive identification. These differing opinions probably reflect to some degree viewpoints often expressed by bird banders as contrasted with field birders.

No improper handling brought about the Calliope hummingbird's death, although the experience of being caught was probably the final stress that affected the bird. It did exhibit signs of ill health, such as drooping wings (Figures 3, 4), and there is no way of knowing how much longer it might have survived had it not been captured. The specimen, along with written documentation, was deposited with the bird collection at the Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* Franklin County, early November – 30 November 2002

This bird came to light when the homeowner, Glenda Payton, called a bird products store in Columbus on 17 November to ask about a hummingbird still visiting her feeder in Westerville. It had been present for a week or more. She reached birder Marcus England, who visited the site the next day, observed the bird, and obtained some digiscoped photos. England recognized it as an *Archilochus* and immediately arranged for a few local birders to visit, preparatory to working out understandings with the Paytons for the public to converge if a rarity was involved. On 19 November, McCormac and others viewed the cooperative bird intermittently over almost two hours, and England obtained more digiscoped images. The possibility that this might be a black-chinned hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*, which would be a first state record, was at issue. While no one was willing to conclude it was a black-chinned, most were leaning that way. Later that day, England made his images available, and at least one birder stated he felt it was indeed a black-chinned.

Still, the consensus was that there simply was not enough evidence to allow for a conclusive identification, and observers considered having the bird caught so that diagnostic measurements could be made. In light of the recent Calliope hummingbird mishap, there was some reluctance to do so, and Hammond agreed to visit the site to obtain additional digiscoped photographs. On 20 November he took a number of close-up photos (Figures 7, 8) that showed features normally visible only with the bird in hand.

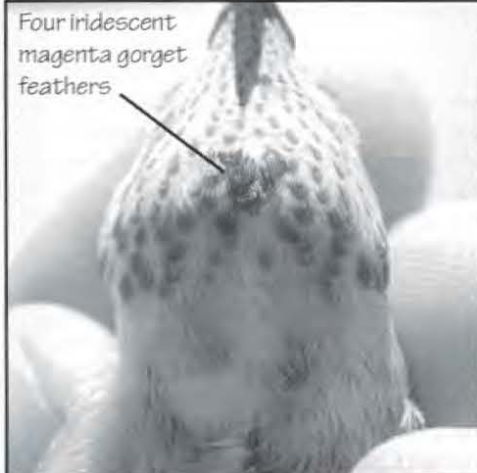


Figure 6. Throat markings of the immature male Calliope hummingbird in Ross County. Photo by Allen Chartier on 1 November 2002.

Based on these images, there is no question that the bird was a ruby-throated hummingbird. The crown color could be clearly discerned: it was mostly iridescent green, unlike the grayish color of black-chinned (Sibley 2000). Overall coloration of the underparts and back certainly appeared more like ruby-throated, as did the bill. But the clincher, and something quite hard to see accurately even through good optical equipment in the field, is the shape of the outermost primary (P10). In ruby-throated hummingbird, this feather is rather pointed and knife-like in shape, as opposed to the blunt, rounded P10 of a black-chinned (Baltosser and Russell 2000). In some of the photos, this feature shows up as if seen under a hand lens (e.g., Figure 8). Resolution of details establishing this bird's identity using this technique is instructive, as many experts feel that immature or female *Archilochus* hummingbirds must be captured to accurately determine critical features.

Digiscoping

Throughout the history of birding, people have needed ways to verify and document the unusual birds they have seen. Until recent decades, collecting specimens was considered the only acceptable method of verification. As conservation attitudes changed and optics improved, the need to collect birds to confirm their identity began to dissipate. Spotting scopes soon became standard equipment for the average birder, and that average birder was doing more and more birding. As observers found more rarities, the need for photodocumentation became increasingly important. Standard 35-mm single-lens reflex cameras are excellent tools, but most useful only



Figure 7. Ruby-throated hummingbird in Franklin County. Note relatively short, thick bill and whitish post-ocular spot. Also note drooping wings, partially closed eye, and tongue extending from bill. These conditions may be symptoms of an infection or lesions on the tongue or mouth lining. Digiscoped photo by Joe Hammond on 20 November 2002.



Figure 8. Wing detail of the Franklin County ruby-throated hummingbird. Note diagnostic shape of P10, outlined in white. Digiscoped photo by Joe Hammond on 20 November 2002.

when the subject is fairly close. Nor do they perform well when used in conjunction with a spotting scope, as without an adaptor they cannot be used at all.

Soon people began carrying point-and-shoot cameras to document birds. A documentary photograph can be obtained by holding the lens of the camera up to the eyepiece of a spotting scope, but the results are uncertain and often of poor quality. Recent developments in both digital camera and spotting scope technology have opened a new door for birders. Users can obtain not only documentary photographs, but also images suitable for detailed examination of the bird itself, examination often not possible in the field.

The relatively new technique of digiscoping involves taking a photograph using a digital camera held up or mounted to the eyepiece of a spotting scope. A high-quality, large-aperture spotting scope coupled with a digital camera of similar capabilities can produce some surprisingly good photographs. One does not need the most expensive equipment, however, to obtain satisfactory photographs for documentation.

The ruby-throated hummingbird discussed above was photographed using this technique and would probably have been captured for identification had it not been for England's and Hammond's high-resolution photographs. Here details could be discerned otherwise visible only with the bird in hand. Hammond also digiscoped the other late ruby-throated hummingbird in Ohio this year, and its identity was also confirmed by the photographs. Will this method of photography allow some rufous/Allen's hummingbirds to be identified without trapping? Because many digital cameras have the capability to also capture video, we think so. Close-up photos of the bird can aid in determining its age and sex, and a clear photograph or video still of the bird's spread tail could further efforts to identify it. While we realize that many individuals may not be identifiable using this technique, we look forward to at least investigating this possibility next fall.

To Band or Not to Band

Many feel the process of capturing birds during banding operations places undue stress and potentially causes unnecessary mortality, and this risk is too great considering the extremely low rate of return of banded birds. While this may be true for many groups of birds, banding hummingbirds—including vagrants—has yielded a fairly high rate of return. For instance, of 1929 ruby-throated hummingbirds banded from 1984 to 1998 in York, South Carolina, an amazing 243 were recaptured in later years, a rate of 12.6% (B. Hilton, <www.hiltonpond.org>).

Apparently some vagrant hummingbirds in the east display remarkable site fidelity, visiting the same feeders year after year. Without banding, this fact would have remained unknown. Some interesting examples of recaptures include a rufous hummingbird banded in December 1994 in Picayune, Mississippi. It was recaptured the next seven years at the same location. A black-chinned hummingbird was banded in December 1994 in Gulfport, Mississippi and was recaptured the following four winters in the same yard. A Calliope hummingbird was banded and spent winter 1996 in Nashville, Tennessee. It was recaptured at the same location the next three winters. In Ohio, an adult female rufous hummingbird caught on 29 November 2002 in Columbus was found to be already banded. This individual was originally caught on 20 November 2001 in York, South Carolina as a hatch-year bird!

While there is no question that banding hummingbirds has produced fascinating data and has shed light on a facet of ornithology not well understood—vagrant hummingbirds—there are those who also believe that capturing these birds is in many instances the only way to identify them positively. This is debatable, and digiscoped photos of the Westerville ruby-throated hummingbird provide a dramatic example of how refined photographic techniques may be equally effective, and less invasive, in certain cases. Also, in instances where the homeowner will not permit the bird to be caught, digiscoping can be an effective alternative.

Based on the Chillicothe Calliope hummingbird incident, Allen Chartier has stated that his policy is not to attempt to capture a feeder-visiting hummingbird until at least one full weekend has elapsed after the birding community has been notified and given permission to visit the site. That way, all who wish to view the bird should have the opportunity to do so before any capture attempt is made. We feel this is a good compromise, but also believe that birders should continue exploring the potential of digiscope photography in these cases as well.

An Issue Peculiar to Rare Hummingbirds

Many rare birds are accommodating enough to appear in public places, where access is not a problem and no special arrangements to visit need to be made. For instance, the 2002 Ohio roseate spoonbills *Platalea ajaja* spent months at a state park, and many hundreds of birders went to see them with no worries about making prior arrangements. But rare hummingbirds will invariably pose a peculiar set of problems regarding access.

In every case in Ohio to date—which until the Calliope had involved only rufous/Allen's—rare hummingbirds have been discovered in someone's yard visiting a feeder or flowering plants. In many future cases these sites will be in neighborhoods where an incursion of strangers with optical equipment will attract attention and perhaps even arouse the suspicions of neighbors.

It is imperative that when a potentially rare hummingbird comes to light, an advance team of birders—or a single individual—makes contact with the homeowners in order to seek access for the rest of the birding community. Even with such precautions, permission at times may not be forthcoming. In 2001 a rufous hummingbird frequented an Adams County feeder for an extended period of time, yet the owners were unwilling to open their property to the birding community. In most cases homeowners have been glad to allow visitation once it has been explained to them what is involved, but it is important to smooth the way and let them know what to expect, ascertaining if special arrangements for parking, hours of visitation, ways of accessing the yard, etc. must be made. Also, it is best to make sure the homeowner has time to let neighbors know that strangers may be prowling around.

We think Ohio will probably add more species of hummingbirds to the state list in the next few years. These additions will be easier for everyone if patience is exercised until arrangements have been made for visits satisfactory to the homeowner, and understanding in those few cases when such arrangements prove impossible.

Potential New State Records

Which species of hummingbirds new to Ohio seem most likely over the next ten years? Perhaps surprisingly, the first species on our short list is one that does not regularly spend time in North America—the green violet-ear *Colibri thalassinus*. This rather large and showy tropical species typically inhabits high-elevation forests in Mexico as well as Central and South America (Newfield 2001). On occasion this highly sought-after species wanders into North America, where nearly 50 records exist, most of them since 1990. Texas, with more than 30 records, is the most likely place to encounter this species in North America, but the green violet-ear could appear anywhere. Records also exist for Alabama (1), Arkansas (4), Colorado (1), Kentucky (1), Louisiana (1), Michigan (2), Mississippi (1), Missouri (1), North Carolina (2), Oklahoma (2), Wisconsin (1), and, believe it or not, Alberta (1) and Ontario (1). Clearly, this species has a tendency to wander northeast. Given this affinity, and the species' occurrences in two states neighboring Ohio—as recently as 2002 in Michigan—we predict it is only a matter of a short time before a green violet-ear is documented in Ohio. While records exist for all months of the year but January, February, and March, the best time to look for this species is mid-May through July (Newfield 2001). Hummingbird feeders near pine plantings or oak forests might be the best places to search for this elusive wanderer. For a detailed treatment of this species in North America see Newfield (2001).

The second species on our list is one proposed, along with ruby-throated, as the identity of the 2002 Westerville bird: black-chinned hummingbird. This western counterpart to the ruby-throated hummingbird is a very common species, breeding from southern British Columbia south to northern Mexico (Williamson 2001, Howell 2002). While this species normally winters in western Mexico, it is increasing as a winter visitor to the southeastern United States, especially along the Gulf coast. Away from the southeast, vagrants have been recorded in Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Tennessee, Virginia, South Dakota, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and, most recently, New Brunswick (October 2002). While only one state bordering Ohio has documented records of this species, its increasing presence in the southeast during winter and its confirmation as an autumn vagrant to the northeast make this a likely candidate for an appearance in Ohio, especially after mid-October.

A third likely candidate for vagrancy to Ohio, Allen's hummingbird, has already been discussed regarding its similarity to rufous hummingbird. This species breeds along the Pacific coasts of California and southern Oregon and is represented by two subspecies. Nominate *Selasphorus sasin sasin* migrates to south-central Mexico in the fall, whereas the aptly-named *S. s. sedentarius* remains in southern California year-round (Mitchell 2000). As would be expected, it is the nominate migratory subspecies that has established itself as a fall and winter vagrant to the eastern United States in recent years. Like black-chinned, but far fewer in numbers, Allen's hummingbirds are rare but regular along the Gulf coast during winter. As a result of capture and measurement, this species has also recently been confirmed as a vagrant in northern Alabama, Delaware, north-central Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Virginia. With continued effort to monitor late-season rufous/Allen's hummingbirds, Ohio will probably document its first confirmed Allen's in the not-too-distant future.

Two other species have recently proved to be long-distance wanderers in the fall and winter and could potentially make appearances in Ohio. Both Anna's hummingbird *Calypte anna* and broad-tailed hummingbird have shown a propensity for eastward vagrancy and should be looked for as well. With more feeders maintained beyond mid-October, observations of non-ruby-throated hummingbirds should increase. To increase the likelihood of the birding community being made aware of these sightings, we should all encourage our friends and neighbors to inform us if they observe any hummingbird after mid-October. In doing so, we have not only the chance to increase our knowledge of extralimital hummingbirds, but the potential to strengthen the relationship between backyard enthusiasts and the more active field-birding community as well.

Acknowledgments

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