

RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION Records of Vermont Birds

The following form has been prepared to encourage full documentation, when requested, of rare or unseasonal birds in the state of Vermont. These reports are put into a permanent file and should be as detailed as possible. New reports are reviewed annually by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which evaluates records for their acceptability to future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list.

Please print or type

SPECIES: Selasphorus species

NUMBER OBSERVED: 1

OBSERVER MAKING REPORT: OTHER OBSERVERS (and addresses if available)

Jane Lindholm
441 Piney Woods Rd.
Bristol, VT 05443

LOCATION: (place, township, county)

Piney Woods Rd., Monkton, VT, at my hummingbird feeder.

(NOTE: my home is in Monkton but the mailing address is Bristol because we have no mail delivery in Monkton!)

DATE: October 21st and October 29th 2012

TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: I saw it all day on both of those dates (I was at home and could monitor the feeder)

DISTANCES FROM BIRD: Maximum__10 feet__ Minimum__5 feet (through a window)__

WEATHER:

wind direction _____ wind speed _____

sky cover _____ light in relation to observer's position temperature_____

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: (make, power, etc.)

Canon Rebel xt camera with 70-300 zoom

OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:

I'm not a particularly savvy birdwatcher but have spent lots of time observing the ruby-throated hummingbirds that hang around in our yard.

OTHER DOCUMENTATION: Photo _Yes! Several!_ Tape Recording _____ Specimen _____

If yes to the above, where is this information deposited?_ Sent in email to VBRC _____

HABITAT: (be as detailed as possible, include associated bird species)

This bird spent hours at our backyard hummingbird feeder over the course of several days. I watched it flit back and forth between our feeder and a nearby bush. Our property is open with several trees and lots of flowers, but at this late a date the leaves were off the trees and the flowers all gone.

BIRD'S BEHAVIOR: (feeding actions, manner of flight, displays or interactions, reaction to observer)

This hummingbird appeared alert and agile, flitting around at the feeder, resting in the bush, and then flying off out of view. It did this for at least four or five hours on both occasions that I was watching it. I don't think it ever spotted me because I was inside at the window.

VOCALIZATION: (song or calls)

None that I could hear

DESCRIPTION: (Describe what you actually saw during the observation. We hope that observers will take field notes during the observation and before consulting field guides, etc. Additional pages with sketches and copies of field notes are encouraged.)

Relative size and shape: same size and shape as a ruby throated hummingbird

Head (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape): Green head with some orange around the eyes and a white throat. Eyes were black.

Feet and Bill (shape, color, length):
Both feet and bill were black.

Upper back:
Shimmery green.

Lower back and rump:
Shimmery green back,.

Wings (shape, length, markings):
From what I could see, the wings appeared the same color green. But I never got a good look at them while they were still.

Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts:
Similarly, I didn't get too many looks at the bird's belly, but from what I did see, it was a rusty orange color with maybe some white underneath its feet.

Tail (shape, length, markings):
Shortish tail. With a rufous chevron. The lower part of the tail was greenish black. And when the tail was fanned out, the lower tail feathers went orange/black/white (white tips)

IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?

The bird was the same size and shape as a ruby throat. But different markings. I was unable to determine if this was a rufous or an Allen's hummingbird.

COMMENTS: (was age or sex determined?, etc.)

This report was written from notes taken during _____ immediately after _____ the observation, or written from memory __YES__ (please attach copies of notes if available)

NAME (print) _____ Jane Lindholm _____ SIGNATURE (not req'd) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ 441 Piney Woods Rd., Bristol, VT 05443 _____

DATE _____ 12/31/12 _____

Return electronically (preferred) to: vbrc@vtcostudies.org or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055













