

A JULY RECORD OF A MALE RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

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At about noon on 27 July 1994, as I was passing our kitchen window in rural Oktibbeha County, northeast of Starkville, Mississippi, a coppery flash caught my eye when I glanced at a hummingbird feeder. I recognized immediately that the bird I was looking at was not a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) by the brilliant "new penny" flash of its gorget. I immediately thought of the Anna's (*Calypte anna*) or Rufous (*Selasphorus rufus*) hummingbird, but had to consult a field guide to confirm identification of the bird as an adult male Rufous Hummingbird. By the time I had confirmed the bird's identity, it had moved to a second hummingbird feeder on our front porch and was defending it against about four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Later on the same afternoon, Margaret Copeland came to observe the bird and confirmed my identification.

Just after daybreak on 28 July, the Rufous Hummingbird was again at our feeders. Terry Schiefer also observed it and at about 09:30 Bob and Martha Sargent of Trussville, Alabama, captured the bird, banded it, and marked it with a white dab of "liquid paper" on the head. When it was released, the Rufous flew about 40 m to a magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) where it preened. The bird was last seen at the feeder by Bob and Martha Sargent at about noon on 28 July.

We feel very fortunate to have had this visitor, even for this brief time. This episode certainly heightened our awareness of the possibility of such a visit and makes our viewing of the hummingbird feeders much more than casual.

[The Rufous Hummingbird was first reported in coastal Mississippi in December 1960 (Toups and Jackson 1987) and the species has been regularly seen in southeast Louisiana for many years. In the past decade there have been several records of Rufous or possible Rufous (*Selasphorus* sp.) from Mississippi, including many banded by Bob and Martha Sargent. While many records have been from coastal areas, additional north or central Mississippi records provided through the efforts of Bob and Martha Sargent include birds banded at Cleveland, Starkville, near Louisville, and Brandon. Other north Mississippi records of *Selasphorus* sp. include sightings in Oxford, Horn Lake (DeSoto Co.), Kosciusko, and Lake Ferguson (near Greenville) (Purrington 1989; T. Schiefer, pers. Comm.). This record of an adult male banded at Starkville is the earliest summer record among these reports.-- JAJ]

LITERATURE CITED

- Purrington, R.D. 1989. Central Southern Region. *Am. Birds* 43:114-120.
- Toups, J.A., and J.A. Jackson. 1987. *Birds and birding on the Mississippi coast*. Univ. Press of Mississippi, Jackson.