New York State Avian Records Committee (2013) acknowledges 28 submitted reports of Rufous sightings for 1980-2010. Five of those submissions were not accepted, eight were accepted as *Selasphorus sp.* or *Selasphorus rufus/sasin*: four from Jul-Sep and four from Nov; and 15 were accepted as Rufous Hummingbirds: six in Aug-Oct, six in Nov and three in Dec (in some cases a bird was reported in an earlier month, but lingered into a later month and the later month is used here in this tally). The three Dec records from among the 15 reports accepted as Rufous Hummingbirds extended to 17 Dec 2009 in Richmond County and 10 Dec 2009 in Suffolk County in the New York City/ Long Island area, while the third came from Cambridge, Washington County, at latitude/ longitude 43°01' 42.21" N and 73°23' 13.36" W, elevation 493 ft (150 m) (Google Earth 2013). It is listed in NYSARC's records as reported 12 Nov 1994. I banded this bird on 3 Dec 1994 and it was taken into captivity for the winter but died there on 9 Dec 1994 (Yunick 1994). At the time, it represented the second verified state record for the species as well as the first ever banded in New York state. It exists as a specimen in the collection at Columbia-Greene Community College, Hudson, NY.

The West Phoenix Rufous described here occurred at the farthest northern latitude (43°13' 31.58" N) and latest date (27 Dec 2012) so far published for New York state.

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Robert P. Yunick
1527 Myron Street
Schenectady, New York 12309
anneboby@aol.com

Some Observations on Flight Feather Molt of Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*) in Northeastern United States

Detailed published data on flight feather molt of Rufous Hummingbirds are scarce. I conducted two searches in SORA (Searchable Ornithological Research Archive, 2013): one for "Rufous Hummingbird," the other for "hummingbird molt" for the period 1930-2012 covering 13 major ornithological journals. Several molt studies were found on species other than *S. rufus*, but no detailed data were found on *rufus* flight feather molt. Healy and Calder (2006) indicate that complete molt occurs "primarily on winter grounds" and they present data on percentages of males and females in flight feather molt at Estado Jalisco, Mexico, in Jan 1989, 1990 and 1991, but offer no details. Aldrich (1956) examined male *rufus* specimens dated 29 Feb through 29 Jul and concluded: "Time of acquisition of the adult plumage is not known, but is probably assumed sometime in the early part of the calendar year while the birds are on their winter range." Phillips (1975) contended: "Most of the primaries are replaced in late autumn," by male *rufus* based on specimen data, but no further details were offered. Baltosser (1995) offered a summary of molt literature on North American and Mexican hummingbirds, but included no additional information on *rufus* beyond that in Aldrich (1956).

Here I report observations made on ten birds banded in New York state, Vermont and New Jersey, 1994-2012. Nine of these observations were made between 24 Oct and 30 Dec, while the tenth was made on 21 Apr on a bird taken into captivity in Dec and harbored until May. Eight of these birds were hatching-year (HY) or second-year (SY) birds (seven females and one male), while two others were after-hatching-year (AHY) males.

Table 1 summarizes geographical information on these birds which I banded except for Bird No. 7 which was banded by E. A. Hicks. Table 2 represents my observations on the molt status of all of these birds. While most of the Table 2 molt information was recorded while the live birds were in hand, some few data were obtained from photographs taken of some of these birds; and in one case, Bird No. 1, from a preserved specimen (see Footnote 4 in Table 2.)

Table 1. Geographical locations and names of hosts of Rufous Hummingbirds banded, listed in chronological order of banding, 1994-2012.

Bird No.	Location	Latitude[1] Longitude	Date	Elevation[1] ft/m	Host(s)
1[2]	80 W. Main St. Cambridge, NY	43°01' 42.63"N 73°23' 12.96"W	3 Dec 1994	494/151	Mary Vitello
2[3]	2314 Rt. 32 Saugerties, NY	42°02' 55.89"N 73°57' 24.20"W	21 Apr 1995	159/48	Arnette Heidcamp
3	462 Van Antwerp Rd. Fonda, NY	42°58' 19.04"N 74°21' 06.27"W	19 Nov 2005	707/215	Bev and Carl Siegle
4	1010 Rt. 50 Ballston Lake, NY	42°56' 24.73"N 73°52' 13.01"W	24 Oct 2010	374/114	Karl and Beth Hillig
5	395 Warm Brook Rd. E. Arlington, VT	43°03' 25.21"N 73°08' 55.75"W	22 Nov 2011	768/234	Sharon and Pat Derosia
6	Lenoir Preserve Dudley St. Yonkers, NY	40°58' 30.98"N 73°53' 02.66"W	30 Nov 2011	305/93	Danniela Ciatto, Bill VanWart, and Ed Higgins
7	441Brookview Ct. Branchburg, NJ	40°33' 25.65"N 74°43' 24.43"W	30 Dec 2011	138/42	Marlene Scocco
8	8407 Powell Rd. Interlaken, NY	42°57' 01.89"N 76°42' 17.16"W	4 Nov 2012	742/226	Marty Schlabach and Mary Jean Welser
9	63 Hamlet Ct. Wappingers Falls, NY	41°35' 25.89"N 73°53' 45.38"W	9 Nov 2012	213/65	Barbara and Angelo Giaimo
10	9425 Pendergast Rd West Phoenix, NY	43°13' 31.83"N 76°18' 35.02"W	6 Dec 2012	380/116	Anne Dillon Gray and Jeff Gray

[1] Latitude/Longitude and elevation data derived from Google Earth (2013).
[2] Bird banded 3 Dec 1994 and taken into captivity where it died 9 Dec 1994, saved as a specimen B#1281 at Columbia-Greene Community College, Hudson, NY.
[3] This bird originated from East Hartford, CT; captured 12 Dec 1994 and harbored indoors over the winter at Saugerties, NY.

Table 2. Molt observations on Rufous Hummingbirds arranged in chronological order of date banded within the molt cycle.

Bird No.[1]	Date Age/Sex[2]	Observation[3]
4	24 Oct 2010 HY/F	RP1-2 new, RP3 ~3/4ths regrown, RP4-10 faded RS showed no molt All rectrices slightly worn at tips Modest breast, abdomen, flank molt (few sheathed feathers)
8	4 Nov 2012 HY/F	RP1 new, RP2 ~3/4ths regrown, RP3 ~1/4th regrown, RP4-10 slightly faded/worn Little or no wear on RS All rectrices with very slight wear at tips
9	9 Nov 2012 HY/F	RP1-4 new, RP5 ~3/4ths regrown, RP6 missing, RP7-10 very faded RS very faded RR 1 full length, worn at tip; LR1 ~half regrown (adventitious replacement) All other rectrices with slight wear at tips No body molt apparent
3	19 Nov 2005 HY/M	RP1-5 new, RP6-8 obscured in photo not observed, RP9-10 faded RS very faded RR1/LR1 barely worn, RR3-5/LR2-5 worn at tips
5	22 Nov 2011 HY/F	RP1-3 new, RP4-10 slightly faded, not worn RS faded RR5 not worn (adventitious replacement?), other rectrices with slight wear at tips No body molt apparent
6	30 Nov 2011 HY/F	RP1-3 new (RP3=16.5mm), RP4 nearly regrown=15.0mm, RP5 missing RP6-10 slightly faded RS faded All rectrices slightly worn at tips No body molt apparent
10	6 Dec 2012 AHY/M	RP1-6 new, RP7 missing, RP8-10 faded and slightly worn at tips RS1 new, RS2-6 faded Rectrices one generation, slight wear at tips Front 10mm of forehead new, no apparent molt on back, flanks, abdomen
1[4]	9 Dec 1994 AHY/M	RP1-7 new, RP8-10 slightly faded and slightly worn RS1 new, RS2-4 slightly faded, unable to view RS5-6 on specimen RR1/LR1 new, unworn under 7-15Xmag. while RR2 slightly worn and RR3-5 with worn outer edges under 7-15X magnification 14x14-mm area on crown starting at the base of the maxilla was new, unworn irridescent green contrasting with distinctly worn tips of adjacent rufous on nape under 15X magnification No Body molt apparent
7	30 Dec 2011 HY/F	No RP molt, all with same degree of slight wear All rectrices very slightly worn at tips No body molt apparent
2	21 Apr 1995 SY/F	RP1-7 new, RP8-10 faded with abraded tips All rectrices worn at tips

[1] Bird No. refers to the bird listings in Table 1.
[2] Age codes: AHY=After-Hatching-Year; HY=Hatching-Year; SY=Second-Year. Sex: F=Female; M=Male.
[3] Abbreviations: L=Left, P=Primary(ies), first letter R=Right, second letter R=Rectrix, S=Secondary(ies)
[4] Bird banded 3 Dec 1994 and taken into captivity where it died 9 Dec 1994, data from preserved specimen, B#1282 at Columbia-Greene Community College, Hudson, NY taken on 17 Jan 2013.

Primary molt was noted in all of these birds except Bird No. 7. Given the slight degree of wear on this bird's primaries and rectrices, all of which in each tract appeared to be of a single generation, this bird may have been from a late nesting. Otherwise, primary molt was noted to have commenced at least as early as Oct and progressed steadily through Nov and Dec, though degree of advancement varied among individuals. For instance, HY/F Bird No. 9 banded on 9 Nov had primary molt advanced to the stage of having dropped RP6, while HY/F Bird No. 5 on 22 Nov (13 days later than Bird No. 9) had advanced only as far as renewing RP1-3. But eight days later on 30 Nov, HY/F Bird No. 6 had advanced to having dropped RP5, illustrating timing variability from bird to bird.

There is some suggestion that adult male primary molt may have commenced earlier or progressed faster than in immature females. The two AHY/M birds, Nos. 10 and 1, show a greater progression of primary molt out to RP7 by 6 and 9 Dec, respectively, compared to RP5 in HY/F Bird No.6 on 30 Nov. Baltosser (1995) found that the advance of primary molt scores of immatures trailed those of adults in Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) and Black-chinned Hummingbirds (*A. alexandri*).

There were only two examples of autumn molt of secondaries: both were AHY/M birds on 6 and 9 Dec, respectively, which had renewed RS1. Otherwise, birds in Oct-Nov had faded retained secondaries that varied from slight to heavy fading, the latter contrasting sharply with the adjacent, darker, newly renewed inner primaries. Both of these males had primary molt which had progressed to the stage where RP7 was missing or renewed. In a study of 13 Costa Rican species, none including *S. rufus*, Stiles (1995) found among five of those species secondary and rectrix molt commencing once four to six primaries had been replaced.

No rectrix molt in progress (missing or partially regrown rectrices) was observed. There was most likely adventitious replacement in Birds No. 9 and 5. However, there was evidence that replacement of RR1/LR1 had possibly occurred in Bird No.3, an HY/M. Those feathers showed a lack of wear compared to the other rectrices. But the more compelling evidence for renewal of the inner pair of rectrices appeared in Bird No. 1, an AHY/M, which when examined under 7-15X illuminated magnification (Leica ZOOM 2000 dissecting microscope) showed striking contrast between the fresh, dark, unworn central rectrices compared to the worn edges of the other rectrices.

Bird No. 2, a SY/F kept in captivity over the winter and early spring, appeared to be unusual. There was no rectrix molt observed in this bird while in captivity 12 Dec 1994 to 21 Apr 1995 (Arnette Heidcamp, pers. comm.). When I banded it on 21 Apr, all rectrices were worn at the tips and appeared to be of one generation, and the bird still retained RP8-10 which were faded and abraded at the tips.

The only examples of substantial head or body molt were found in Birds No. 10 and 1, both AHY/M, on 6 and 9 Dec, respectively. The 10 mm of renewed forehead plumage on Bird No. 10 stood out in strong contrast to the rest of the head plumage, viewed with the naked eye in outdoor sunlight. While on Bird No. 1 under illuminated 7-15X magnification, the unworn, new, iridescent green crown plumage measuring 14 x 14 mm contrasted sharply with the older, worn plumage around it.

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Robert P. Yunick
1527 Myron Street
Schenectady, New York 12309
anneboby@aol.com

Corrections to "Amazing hummingbird recapture" abstract

On 5 Jan 2012, I posted details about a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) recapture to Humband, a closed online chat group exclusively for hummingbird banders. With my permission, Scott Weidensaul (who is also a hummingbird bander and member of this chat group) reposted these details along with his own personal commentary to the PA-Birds online birding chat group in Pennsylvania. Weidensaul's posting was then accurately re-published in the newsletter of Sea & Sage Audubon Society (Irvine, CA), listing him as author (Weidensaul 2012, *Wandering Tattler* 35 [6]: 6), but not confirming the details with me. McNicholl (2012, *North American Bird Bander* 37: 106) abstracted this newsletter article in this journal's "*Recent Literature*" section, but introduced several errors. Here I correct those errors and fill in some details missing from all published accounts of this amazing recapture.

On 20 Oct 2009, I placed band number H(3100)-61079 on an after-hatch-year female Rufous Hummingbird at the residence of Tim Sage near Loudonville, Ashland County, OH (40°41' 21" N, 82°14' 34"W). The bird had originally been noted at this location on 12 Oct 2009 and was last observed there on 5 Nov 2009. On 18 Dec 2010, Fred Bassett (pers. comm.) recaptured this bird in Pensacola, FL, approximately 1216 km (756 mi) SSW of the original banding location (using "How Far Is It?", http://www.indo.com). Dates when first and last observed at this locale are unknown. Then, on 4 Jan 2012, I recaptured this bird again, this time at the residence of Barb Jones in Mansfield, Richland County, OH (40°44' 57"N, 82°31' 59" W), which is 25 km (16 mi) WNW of the original banding location. The bird was on site at this location from about 1 Nov 2011 to 14 Jan 2012, and was at least 3 yr 6 mo old when recaptured. This is the second Rufous Hummingbird confirmed as a returnee in Ohio (the first was near Zanesville, Muskingum County, in 2003, 2004, and 2005; A. Chartier, unpubl. data). Presuming two annual returns in summer to a Pacific Northwest breeding area, this bird may have flown more than 24,000 km (15,000 mi) between its 2009 banding date and its 2012 recapture date.

Allen T. Chartier
1442 West River Park Drive
Inkster, MI 48141
Amazilia3@gmail.com