

morning of 12 November we were devastated to find the immature male hummingbird dead, not far from the feeder.

On 13 November we took the bird to Dr. David Willard and Thomas Schulenberg, ornithologists at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Schulenberg prepared and examined the specimen and took measurements that made this the first confirmed Rufous Hummingbird in Illinois.

## Rufous Hummingbird Specimen Measurements

Thomas Schulenberg of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, prepared the Rufous Hummingbird specimen (FMNH 360705) found in the Strauss backyard. His measurements are as follows: The bird weighed 3 grams and had little fat. The testes measured less than 1 x 1 mm. The bird was in immature plum-

age except that it had already acquired several adult rectrices.

Using dial calipers Schulenberg recorded the following measurements: exposed culmen, 15.3 mm; wing chord, 40.7 mm; width of rectrix 1, 8.1 mm; and the greatest width of immature rectrix 5 (the right rec-

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## Rufous Hummingbird: Illinois' Second Record

by Robert F. Danley

When I came home late on 27 October 1993, I noticed on the kitchen table a crude sketch of a hummingbird that my wife, Christine, had made while observing birds visiting the feeders that day. We had seen no hummingbirds for 18 days. Christine's drawing highlighted a buffy colored area below the folded wing. I knew this was a different hummingbird and immediately cleaned the two feeders and restocked them with a stronger sugar solution. A cold front was passing through and temperatures were in the high 30s.

Dawn did not arrive soon enough. I checked the feeders, and there it was. Even in the gloom of heavy cloud cover, the honey-orange coloring of the flank area was obvious. The throat had several large dark-

tipped feathers centrally and spotted lines of smaller greenish feathers laterally.

The bird also had a unique flight silhouette. It held its tail horizontally

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while the body was angled upwards about 25 degrees. The view lasted a few minutes, just enough to know this was a great bird.

The bird was not seen again until 30 October after which Cody Smout,

Judy DeNeal, and Todd Fink, a natural heritage biologist for the Illinois Department of Conservation, came to see it. Clinching the bird's vagrant status was the rufous coloring at the base of the tail feathers, which was noted by all in many good views and postures. We knew it was probably one of the species in the genus *Selasphorus*, but to determine exactly which is very difficult, if not impossible without in-hand measurement (Goetz 1987). For a positive identification, no option existed other than for a licensed bander to trap the bird.

During my lunch hour on 1 November, Fink and Louise Augustine, both licensed banders, DeNeal, and I assembled in my living room awaiting the hummingbird's entrance to the trap. Our anxiety lasted all of 30

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*Immature male Rufous Hummingbird at feeder, 22 Oct. 1993, Olympia Fields, Cook County. Photos by Joe B. Milosevich*

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