

As with Donna, you are more than welcome to come and try to band the one that is here."

Because the Sturms had a potential Rufous Hummingbird, arrangements were made with both the Hayes and Sturms to arrive at their homes about dawn Saturday morning (27 November) in an effort to find out for sure what species were there, and, perhaps, catch and band them, as well. As I drove out of my garage that morning I could tell that one of my tires was flat. That, basically, cancelled the trip. I waited until 7 a.m. to call the Hayeses to let them know that I would not be able to make it. However, since I was able to get the tire fixed by 8:30 a.m., I called the Hayeses again and learned that the birds had already appeared at both locations that morning – so I drove up there anyway arriving about 10:30 a.m. The two traps were in place before 11:00 a.m. Thad Edmonds joined me for the "wait". Neither the Hayeses nor the Sturms (nor Thad nor I) saw any hummingbirds after the birds' early morning visits – and we stayed until dark. The birds failed to show on Sunday, as well. We thought that they had, perhaps, already departed.

Communications on Monday and Tuesday were also negative (no birds). Then, on Wednesday, 1 December, Ann wrote, "My little friend made a showing about 15 minutes ago. Do Ruby Throats have red above their eye?" and later that day she provided the first photo. At 4:00 p.m. on 2 December she wrote, "He has been here all day. He has been guarding the feeder from the soft maple tree. I have some more pics to send you--what is strange to me – he has red coming in behind his eye?? I will be here tomorrow." The three photos were received by email and early that evening (still 2 December.) were forwarded on to most IORC members and other birders for review and comment with 1) a note stating, "Ready for another challenge – it may be a real challenge this time." 2) an invitation for everyone to join me at dawn the next morning

to see the bird, and 3) directions on how to get there. On quick review of the photos two IORC members suggested Anna's as a possibility; another suggested an immature male Ruby-throated. By the time I had arrived



there the next morning, Ann, too, thought the bird may be an Anna's.

I arrived at the Hayeses home at 6:45 a.m. on 3 December. The trap was in place at 6:55 a.m. The bird arrived at 7:10 a.m. and went directly into the trap without hesitation. It was an immature male Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*). John and Ann Hayes and I were the only ones there for this special event and, on release, the bird made the typical hummingbird departure—fast and away. Although it must have continued to be present somewhere in the area, it was not seen again until Sunday morning, 5 December, by Craig Taylor and colleagues who braved the snow in what could have been a futile trip. However, all who ventured there (despite the snow) from 5-13 December were able to observe this surprising Illinois jewel that appeared reliably many times each day at the Hayeses' feeder kept warm by a heat lamp.

The photos taken by Ann Hayes document this first "official" occurrence of the Anna's Hummingbird in Illinois. For the record, another Anna's Hummingbird (an immature female – photographed) was reported in Carbondale from 17-29 September

1990 (Robinson 1996); that record, because of the difficulty of identification, is considered of hypothetical occurrence.

By the way, we don't know for sure if the bird that we originally drove up to see was really a Rufous or not; however, the Anna's obviously, turned out much better—and, even though captured and banded (band number L27034), stayed around for nearly two weeks for the viewing pleasure of approximately 150 observers.

Although the thrill of seeing the Anna's Hummingbird was "priceless" for those who were privileged to see it, it also provided an economic value as well. The exact number who saw the bird and the number of vehicles that found their way to the Hayes driveway were not recorded every day; however, the amount of time spent, if calculated in terms of dollars per observer hour (including vacation time some observers took) is beyond the scope of such value. But, a real figure, \$2,000, would be close for just gas alone if 50 vehicles averaged 250-mile round-trips at 20 miles per gallon with gas near \$3 per gallon.

Acknowledgments

First and foremost, many thanks to Ann and John Hayes for their much appreciated hospitality in catering to the volumes of birders; second, to John Hayes for clearing the snow from the driveway and viewing area so that everyone could conveniently see the bird without leaving their vehicles; third, to all those who assisted the Hayes in keeping the feeders supplied with fresh nectar; and fourth, for all the personal support and daily communications posted on Illinois Birder's Forum.

Literature Cited

Robinson, W. Douglas. 1996. Southern Illinois Birds, An Annotated List and Site Guide. SIU Press, Carbondale. 433pp.

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