

RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Rufous Hummingbird

Date: 16 December 2012

Time of observation: seen throughout count day, birds present from early November through the date of this report.

Location: present at feeders at 1105 Ocotillo Canyon Drive, Carlsbad, Eddy County, New Mexico.

Local status of species: Common to abundant “fall” migrant, present from as early as the first week of July. Usually gone by mid-October. A few have overwintered in recent years.

Observer(s) names and address(es): Renee and Steve West
1105 Ocotillo Canyon Drive
Carlsbad, NM 88220

Observation details:

Distance from bird(s): observed many times, as close as 1 meter

Viewing conditions: On count day, before and after, seen many times at the feeders and in the yard.

Optics: 8 X 40,

Weather, sky cover: clear

Photo? no Video ? no

Past experience with this species: Seen by both observers many times over many years, first seen by this observer on 1 January 1964, seen in subsequent years hundreds of time if not in the low thousands. Seen (this subspecies and others) throughout Latin America.

References/sources used for ID: We used a variety of books including the Sibley guide, National Geographic 4th edition, had on hand the National Geographic guide, 4th edition and hummingbirds of North America (Williamson).

Notes: on the back of this form please provide complete details on this observation. Please provide information as to how you decided it was this species and eliminated similar forms.

Signature: _____ (Steve West) Date: 27 December 2012

Please send form to Steve West, 1105 Ocotillo Canyon, Carlsbad, NM 88220 or email to wthrsrwift@gmail.com

Two or three hummingbirds were present at our feeders from early November though today (27 December 2012). They have lasted through several evenings below freezing. Photographs were obtained of at least two of the three and identified as Rufous Hummingbirds. Both birds were very similar although one had more extensive red on the throat. Photos of both birds have been submitted with this report.

The first photo shows one bird sitting on a horizontal branch of a Netleaf Hackberry. The best photograph of this bird was taken on 25 November 2012 and was one of the three seen through the 27th of December. This individual had dark red and very obvious streaks on the throat with a dark spot and the bottom and center of the throat. The photo does not show the rufous sides but does show the white area below the throat.

The second individual was photographed best on 2 December 2012 and was resting on branches below the canopy of an apple tree. This bird is much paler than the previous individual but shows the rufous sides better. This individual showed the same marks although the streaking on the throat and the red spot at the base of the throat were also paler. It may be that bird 2 is an immature female while the first one is an adult female. This one also shows the white tail tips.

Similar species:

Other wintering hummingbirds have marks that eliminate them or these individuals have marks that identify them as Rufous Hummingbirds (i.e. streaked throat with dark spot at the base of the throat and rufous sides).