**Allen’s Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)- Scituate, Plymouth County, MA**

**29 October 2009**

**Data:**

This hummingbird was captured in a Sargent trap and the following measurements were taken with bird in hand at 1540 on 29 October 2009. U S F&W band # 9000-51745 was placed on right tarsus.

Wing chord: 41.3 mm Tail length: 23.0 mm

Width rectrix #1: 6.9 mm Exposed culmen: 19.3 mm

Width rectrix #5: 1.9 mm Mass: 4.0 g

Emargination rectrix #2: None Length white tip r5: 2.23 mm

Subcutaneous fat: Furcular hollow empty, layer of fat visible on abdomen (Fat=2)

No striations visible on the upper mandible. Adult (Definitive Basic) female with rufous on flanks; rufous and green upperparts; rump mostly rufous with some green feathers visible; whitish throat with dusky greenish-bronze spotting and iridescent orange-red feathers confined primarily to center of throat; rectrix 1 and 2 with rufous on basal 2/3 of feathers with black tip on r2 and green tip to r1, and white tips to outer 3 tail feathers, though non-extensive. No emargination visible on rectrix # 2.

**Discussion:**

This bird was aged as an after hatch year (AHY) female based on lack of striations on the bill and amount of iridescent orange-red feathers in the throat (Stiles Fig. 1a). According to Pyle, adult females average more orange and less green and white in *sasin.*

Wing chord of 41.3 mm is too short for *S. rufous,* but fits adult females of *S. s. sasin* and *S .s. sedentarius.* Tail length of 23.0 mm is too short for *S. s. sedentarius* and *S. rufous,* but fits *S. s. sasin.* Exposed culmen of 19.3 mm fits *S .s. sedentarius,*  and is short for *S. rufous* and *S. s.* sasin, however the bird was molting its body feathers and measurement may not be quite accurate. The width of rectrix # 1 for this bird was measured at 6.9 mm, well below the range for *S. rufous.* Width of rectrix 5 measured at 1.9 mm is also well below the range for *S. rufous* (Pyle key, p. 135 and Stiles key p. 27) and slightly below the range for *S. s. sedentarius.* The lack of emargination and shape of rectrix 2 clearly point to *S. s. sasin.*

Wing and tail measurements fit *S. sasin.* Although some measurements may suggest *S. s. sendentarius*, the likelihood is doubtful of that species showing up on the east coast. The combination of wing chord, r5 width, r2 shape, lack of bill striations, degree of feather wear, and plumage color are diagnostic in identifying this hummingbird as an adult female Allen’s.

**References:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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