**Allen’s Hummingbird**

**Location: 340 Shays Street**

 **Amherst, Massachusetts (Hampshire County)**

**Homeowners- Brian & Marlene Doyle**

**Time: The hummer arrived in late fall and departed May 1st 2011.**

**Observers: Scott Surner/Tom Gagnon/Geoff LeBaron/Harvey Allen/Bob Bieda/Larry Therrien & more.**

**History- On about December 16, 2010 the Doyle’s contacted me at work and reported that they had a Hummingbird still coming to their hummingbird feeder! I explained to them that there was a good chance it was an Selasphorus hummingbird and asked if a few of us could stop by and view the hummer. I was unable to get away the next day so Tom Gagnon and Geoff LeBaron stopped by the Doyle’s and confirmed that it was a Selasphorus Hummingbird, probably a Rufous.**

**On December 18, 2010 I was invited to stop by and view the hummer and took several photographs of the bird. I forwarded a couple of photos to Anthony Hill (Bander) to get his input and he forwarded them down to a more experienced Hummingbird bander in Alabama- Bob Sargent. Bob’s opinion was a Rufous/Allen’s type Hummer, but what caught his attention was the green in the back, and reported back to Anthony that it may be an Allen’s?**

**Before arrangements could be made to band the bird, the hummer under its own power found its way into the Doyle’s Greenhouse that was attached to the house and settled in for the winter. During the next few months I would stop by just to check on the hummers progress, hoping to confirm our thoughts that it was a male and hope that it would molt into an identifiable plumage. On April 3rd I called Marlene and asked if I could stop by again, and inquired if the hummer had changed at all…her reply was that it was changing a little.**

**I arrived and walked into the greenhouse and looked at the bird and was stunned! I looked back at Marlene who was grinning….I had been set up. In about 4-5 weeks since my last visit, the Hummer had transformed into high breeding plumage Allen’s Hummingbird.**

**The Doyle’s released the bird on May 1st, 2011. It hung around during the day, but was never seen after that. Attached are the April photos of the hummingbird taken inside the greenhouse.**

**Submitted by: Scott Surner**

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