**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufous*)- Wareham, Plymouth County, MA 20 November 2011**

**Data:**

The hummingbird was captured in a Sargent trap and the following measurements were taken with bird in hand at 1240 on 20 Nov 2011. U S F&W band # 9000-51849 was placed on left tarsus.

Wing chord: 43.8 mm Tail length: 28 mm

Width rectrix #1: both missing Exposed culmen: 17.3 mm

Width rectrix #5: 3.2 mm Mass: 3.4 g

Emargination rectrix #2: 4.6 mm Length white tip r5: 4.10 mm

Subcutaneous fat: Layer of fat visible in furcular hollow and on abdomen

No striations visible on the upper mandible, however the bill was covered with debris making visualization difficult. Sexed as female from measurements. She had rufous coloration on flanks; bronze-green upperparts; rufous on basal portion of uppertail coverts; whitish throat with dusky bronze spotting and iridescent orange-red feathers confined to center of throat; green to dusky rectrices with rufous on basal half of feathers and white tips to outer 3 tail feathers. Emargination distinct on rectrix # 2.

**Discussion:**

This bird was aged as HY. Although there was an inability to visualize striations or lack thereof on bill as mentioned above, I couldn’t discount their presence. However, the bird had buffy or cinnamon edging to some feathers on upperparts. In the Birds of North America account referring to Stiles 1972, “*YOUNG FEMALE.* Similar to the adult female but feathers of upper parts (especially rump and upper tail-coverts) narrowly and indistinctly margined terminally with pale dull cinnamon or buffy (see pic), and throat variably light and clear to spotted or streaked with dark bronzy, as in young male…” The amount of iridescent orange-red feathers in the throat points to HY. (Stiles Fig. 3a).

Wing chord of 43.8 is too long for *S. s. sasin,* but fits both adult and immature females of *S. rufous* and *S .s. sedentarius.* Tail length of 28 mm is too long for both *S. s. sasin,* and *S. s. sedentarius.* Exposed culmen of 17.3 mm fits all three species. Unfortunately both central rectrices were missing, so no measurements were able to be taken for r1. The shape of r2 is distinct and rules out both *S. s. sedentarius* and *S. s. sasin.* Width of rectrix 5 is in the range for all three species of immature females.

Wing, tail, and culmen measurements all fit *S. rufous.* Although some measurements may suggest *S. s. sendentarius*, the likelihood is doubtful of that species showing up on the east coast. The distinct emargination and shape of r2 rules out Allen’s Hummingbird and points to *S. rufous.*

**References:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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