



Rufous Hummingbird – Elizabethtown, Essex Co.
3 September 1980 *John M. C. Peterson*

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

38. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

GEOFFREY CARLETON

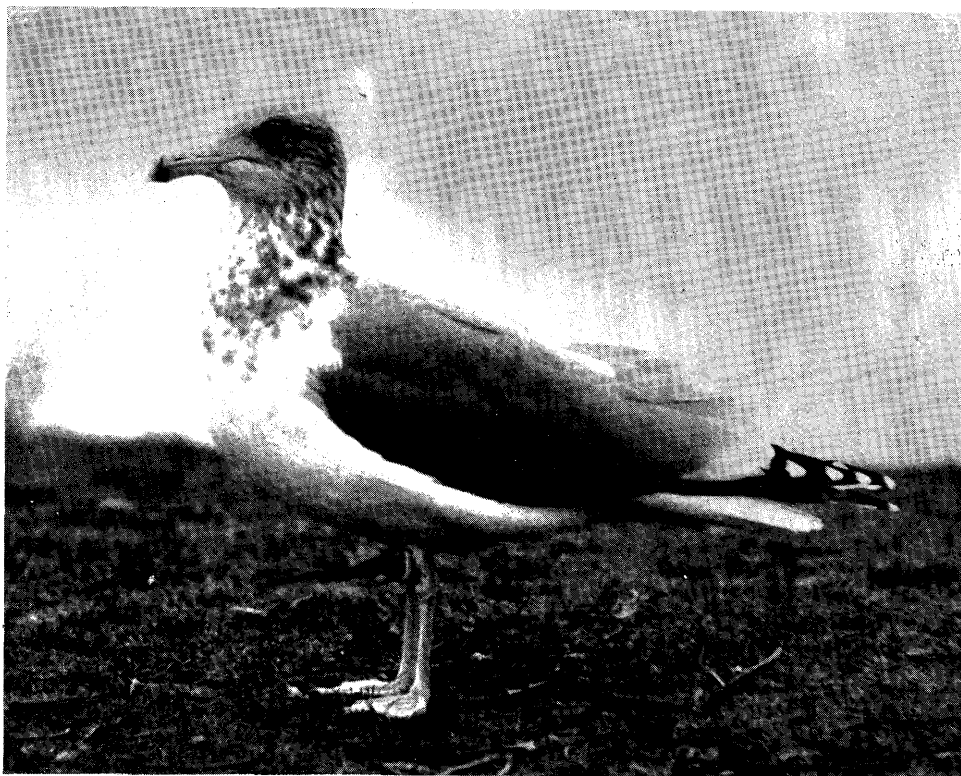
For several years I have birded in September at a spot in the village of Elizabethtown, Essex County, which contains a large mass of jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*). Above it is a steep bank used as a dump, so the observer at the top can easily see birds at all levels. This patch has always attracted Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

From about 11 p.m. to midnight on 2 September, 1980, strong westerly to northwesterly winds awakened me. On 3 September I was electrified to see a "hummer" with entirely rusty brown upper parts. I got Pat Taber to come right over and she commented on the larger size of this bird, compared with Ruby-throats, and on its squared tail tipped with dark spots; we then noticed that a triangular dark patch on the left side of its throat flashed vermilion. We were obviously looking at a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), a first record for New York State.

Mike Peterson and Elspeth Johnson got there soon and found the bird aggressively chasing Ruby-throats, of which there were four or more in female plumage; they also heard calls from the Rufous, which were deeper than those of the Ruby-throats.

Others that saw the Rufous on 3-4 September included Bea and Cassius Guyett, Norman Mason (who had seen it in the western U.S.), Alan Pistorius, Gary Randorf (who had seen it in Alaska), Wayne Scott, Don and Jan Timmons, and Cecelia Wojciokiewicz. Various visitors reported the bird during the next several afternoons, although the writer scanned the area each morning from 6 September to 12 September without finding it. Surprisingly, Mike Peterson and a group from the High Peaks Audubon Society found it on 13 September. The jewelweed soon turned brown and no "hummers" were seen after that date. For a complete listing of all records for Rufous Hummingbird east of the Mississippi, see Conway and Drennan, The Rufous Hummingbird in eastern North America, *American Birds* 33: 2, March, 1979.

Elizabethtown, New York



*California Gull – Rockland Lake, Rockland Co.
October 1978* *Thomas H. Davis*

This photo, which appeared in *The Kingbird* Volume XXX, No. 4, p. 198, was not satisfactorily reproduced at that time. We are therefore reprinting it.