

NOTES OF INTEREST

Rufous Hummingbird overwinters in Hokes Bluff. This past fall (1987), a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) appeared at the feeder of Joe and Susan Kopnicky of Hokes Bluff "about mid-October" but was not immediately recognized because of its similarity to the female Ruby-throated hummers also using the feeder. By late October only the Rufous remained and by December it had acquired its distinctive rufous plumage. During the winter months the bird survived temperatures dipping into the teens and a seven inch snow that lingered for a week. As spring approached the bird continued to transform into its first nuptial plumage, resplendent with an iridescent orange gorget. It was last seen on 31 March. Last winter (1986-87) another Rufous Hummingbird overwintered in Tuscaloosa. *Joe and Susan Kopnicky, Hokes Bluff, AL.*

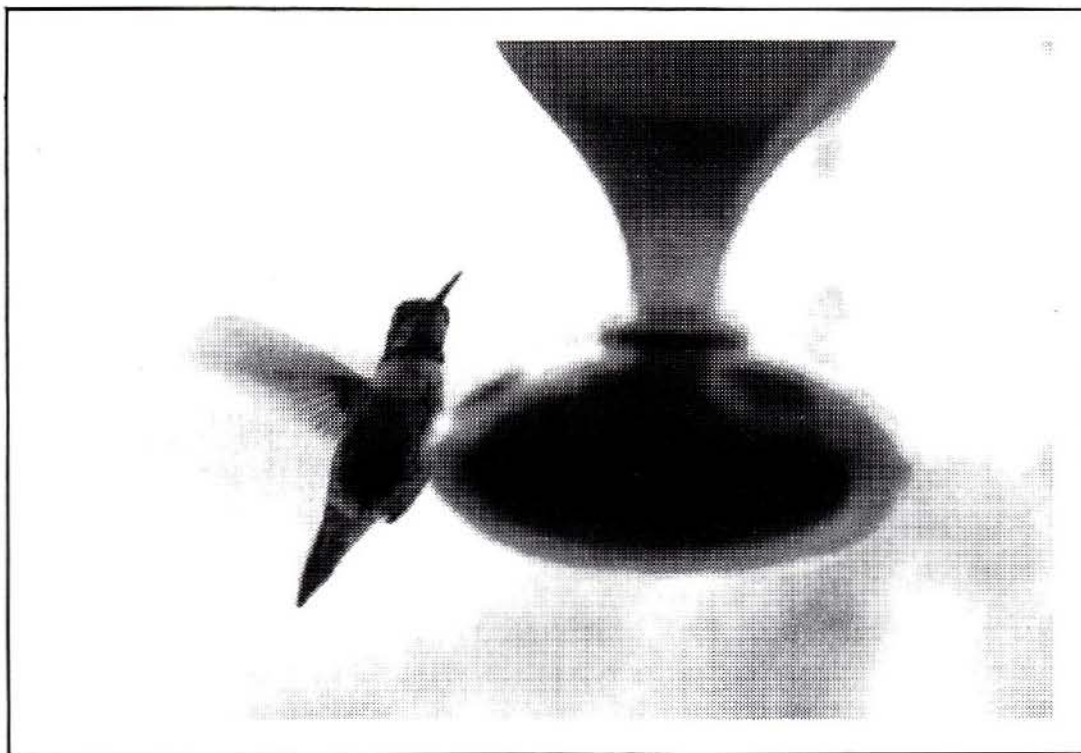


Figure 2. This Rufous Hummingbird appeared at the feeder of Joe and Susan Kopnicky of Hokes Bluff in October 1987 and overwintered until 31 March, 1988. (Photo by Susan Kopnicky)