

First Record of Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*) for North Carolina

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.¹ and Richard E. (Dick) Barmore²

¹*N.C. Natural Heritage Program, 1601 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601*

²*452 Indian Bluff Drive, Arapahoe, NC 28510*

On 21 October 2007 Barmore observed an unusual hummingbird coming to the several feeders in his wooded yard near the Neuse River, west of the town of Arapahoe, Pamlico County. He and his wife Elizabeth White identified the bird as a Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*), which had not previously been reported from North Carolina.

The bird was a large hummingbird, with a green head, buff belly and undertail coverts, a narrow white belly band at the legs, a rufous tail, and a reddish bill with a dark tip. The bird's sex could not be determined because adults of this species are not sexually dimorphic. Barmore heard the bird give a dry buzzy chip during its stay. It was seen through windows from inside their home at distances of 3–40 feet, and Barmore was able to obtain several photographs (Fig. 1). He and White watched the bird for a total of about 14.5 hours over its brief stay. Seventeen other birders, including LeGrand, John Fussell, Bob Holmes, and Derb Carter, saw the Buff-bellied Hummingbird on 22 and 23 October. The last sighting was around 0800 on the morning of 23 October.

The Buff-bellied Hummingbird is quite similar to the Berylline Hummingbird (*A. beryllina*), a primarily Mexican species that ranges north sparingly to southeastern Arizona and western Texas (Howell and Webb 1995) but never to the eastern half of the United States. This species has a grayish belly, brighter rufous wings, and a darker reddish-black bill without a well-defined black tip. Although the Buff-bellied is also found mostly in Mexico, it is a permanent resident in southern Texas and is regularly found along the Gulf Coast east to Florida in winter (American Ornithologists' Union 1998). It is the only hummingbird to exhibit such northward winter dispersal (Chavez-Ramirez and Moreno-Valdez 1999). Records away from the Gulf Coast are from Arkansas, Alabama (American Ornithologists' Union 1998), South Carolina (Slyce et al. 2004), and Georgia (Georgia Ornithological Society Records Committee 2009). The states of Virginia (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007) and Tennessee (Tennessee Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee 2007) have no records.

This report of Buff-bellied Hummingbird in Pamlico County was accepted by the NC Bird Records Committee (LeGrand et al. 2008). Because the photographs clearly depicted this species, it was added directly to the state's Official List.



Figure 1. Buff-bellied Hummingbird found in Arapahoe, Pamlico County, NC on 21 October 2007. Photo by Dick Barmore.

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