

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*



Photo by Rob Alvey at GCBS 2012



Photo by Suzie Alvey Hummer on Cannas 2013

With a shiny green iridescent body, it is hard to miss a Ruby-throated Hummingbird if you come across one. They are hummingbirds, which mean that they can beat their wings at an incredibly fast rate of 53 times per second. The only bird that can fly backwards and hovers easily. The Ruby-throated "hummer" is seen yearly at the Garden City Bird Sanctuary and visits trumpet shaped flowers and red cannas lilies.

Description

Size and Shape- Small hummingbird with a long, down-curved beak, short wings, and a short tail

Color Pattern- Green to black head, brown and white belly, green and black wings, and a black tail. Males have ruby red on their chin while females have spotted black

Behavior- Like all hummingbirds, they fly very precisely and can fly and stop immediately and fly forward and backwards and up and down. They are usually solitary and aggressive.

Song- Chipping noise

Habitat- Deciduous Woodlands like forests, meadows, old fields, orchards, backyards

Range- Very migratory; Eastern and Central part of the U.S. during the summer and Central America during the winter.

Diet- Hover over and feed on nectar of tubular flowers such as, cardinal flower, trumpet creeper, honeysuckle, and red morning glory. They also prey on insects and eat from bird feeders.

Bird Statistics

Scientific name- *Archilochus colubris*

Family- Trochilidae (Hummingbird)

Conservation Status- Least concern

Length- 2.8-3.5 in (7-9 cm)

Wingspan- 3.1-4.3 in (8-11 cm)

Weight- 0.1-0.2 oz (2-6 g)

Egg Statistics

Color- White

Nest- Tiny nest on a slim branch of a deciduous tree, sometime made of lichen threaded by spiderweb.

Clutch size- 1-3 eggs

Number of broods- 1-2

Length- 0.5-0.6 in (1.2-1.4 cm)

Width- 0.3-0.4 in (0.8-0.9 cm)

Incubation period- 12-14 days

Nestling period- 18-22 days

Additional Information

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruby-throated_Hummingbird/id

<http://www.hummingbirds.net/rubythroated.html>