

Ruby Throated Hummingbird

Status: Winters in southern Mexico and Central America south to Costa Rica.

Distribution: Eastern United States and southern Canada in mixed woodlands, orchards, suburban areas with shade trees, etc.; often on an "edge" between open area and woods.

Field Marks: At only 3 inches, the male Ruby-throat has a glowing fiery red throat, iridescent green back, and a forked tail. The female lacks the red throat; has a blunt tail with white spots.

Voice: Male in aerial display swings like a pendulum in a wide arc, each swing accompanied by a hum. Notes are high and squeaky.

Behavioral Clues: Feeds by hovering and inserting its bill in flowers to take nectar. Will also hover and perch at hummingbird feeders.

Nest: Spun by the female from spider webs and plant material, camouflaged with bits of lichen, lined with plant down. Inner diameter of about 4cm (1.5"); the outside of the nest is about 6cm (2.25") tall.



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Migrating from
Costa Rica to
Oakbrook, Illinois

