

Ruby-throated Hummingbird



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GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Archilochus colubris

ORDER: Apodiformes

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ less than 4 inches long, Georgia's smallest bird
- ◆ iridescent green above and pale cream below
- ◆ the male has a brilliant, iridescent red throat
- ◆ both the male and female have a long slender beak for sipping nectar from flowers



Where to Look

Hummingbirds are found near nectar-producing flowers. They are particularly attracted to red or tube-shaped flowers. They are common visitors to gardens and feeders in the summer.



What It Eats.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds feed primarily on nectar from flowers or hummingbird feeders. They will occasionally eat small insects and tree sap.



Nesting

Hummingbirds build tiny cup-shaped nests of lichens and spider webs about 10-20 feet up in trees. They lay 2 tiny white eggs.



Call or Song

The song is a soft "tew". They also have a chattering sound, often heard when competing at feeders.



Migration?

Ruby-throated hummingbirds migrate to Mexico and Central America for the winter months.



Did You Know

During courtship, the male performs a dance for the perched female that looks like the pendulum of a clock swinging back and forth.