

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (RTHU)

Sighting Protocol Data Sheet (U.S. and Canada)

School Name: _____ Group Name: _____

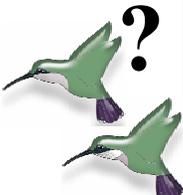
Name(s) of Student(s) Filling in *Data Sheet*: _____

Site Name: _____

Date: _____

Local time at start of observations: _____ UT at start: _____

Local time at end of observations: _____ UT at end: _____

Hummingbird ID	Number of Hummingbirds Observed	Notes:
<p>Adult Male Full red throat All dark tail February– October</p> 		
<p>Adult Female White throat Fan-shaped tail with white tips February-April</p> 		
<p>Young Male Throat streaked with green or black and/or some red feathers May-October</p> 		
<p>Unknown Sex &/or Age White throat (May-October) or throat not observed (February-October)</p> 		

For any “unusual” RTHU (i.e., one with “abnormal” plumage or one that is color-marked) record below the color of the bird’s forehead, crown, throat, breast, belly, flanks, back, tail, bill, and eyes, and the location of other distinct markings. Describe the bird’s activity (including feeding behavior). Take a photo if possible. Also follow this procedure for any “vagrant” hummingbirds other than RTHUs from 15 October through 15 March. Please be sure to report any of these “unusual” and “vagrant” hummingbirds directly to research@hiltonpond.org as soon as possible after sighting. Include your name, date of sighting, and specific location in your e-mail.

Comments:

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (RTHU)

ID CHART (U.S. and Canada)

Take this chart into the field with you!



Adult Male—Throat metallic red; back metallic bronze-green; wings near-black; tail forked and all dark (no white tips); breast and belly usually brownish-gray; flanks metallic bronze-green; crown metallic dark green. White area below gorget may appear to create a light ring around the bird's neck. These are the same bird, notice that the red feathers look black from the side.







Adult Female — Throat white, or with occasional faint streaking (a single black or red throat feather may occur in older females); back metallic bronze-green; wings near-black; tail fan-shaped, with outer three feathers white-tipped; flanks light brown; crown metallic dark green. Any RTHU with a white throat between February and April is an Adult Female.





Young Male — Similar to female--including white tail tips--except young males usually with more or less dark green or black streaking on throat and, later in summer, with one or more red throat feathers. Young RTHU of either sex may have brownish edges on otherwise green body feathers--especially on the crown and back. (Young females resemble adult females.)



Unknown — If you don't get a clear view of the throat or aren't sure, then count the bird as "unknown." In summer and fall, any RTHU with a white throat could be a female of any age or a young male, so it must be called "unknown." Observe and record as many details as you can, especially about the throat (white, streaked, etc.)

