

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

Archilochus colubris

-If you live east of the American Great Plains, this hummer brightens your garden from spring through late summer. From the back, the male and female sport green feather glinting bronze in the sun. From the front, the male shows off his brilliant bib of deep red. The female Ruby-Throated Hummingbird plasters her golf ball sized nest on a thin, horizontal branch toward the outside of a tree (Eastern White Pines and Swamp White Oaks) with open space or water below it and a protecting branch just overhead.



A listing of facts pertaining to the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

Length:	3 ½ inches
Weight:	3.1 grams
Body Temp:	105°-108°
Wing beat:	40-80 beats per second
Respiration:	250 breathes per minute
Heart Rate:	250 beats per minute (resting), 1200 beats per minute (feeding)
Flight Speed:	30 mph (normal speed)
Escape Speed:	50 mph
Eyes:	8x binocular vision; they can see a feeder ¾ of a mile away
Tongue:	The tongue is longer than the bill and is forked on the end. It has small wavy membranes on the sides that soak up the nectar and ejects it into its mouth.
Host Plants:	Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds are attracted to Wild Bergamot, Oswego-Tea, Trumpet-vine, Jewelweed, Cardinal Flower, Butterfly Weed, Red Turtlehead, Wild Lupine, and Cup-Plant.

