

Operation RubyThroat



Hummingbird Migration Protocol Work Sheet (Mexico & Central America)

Observer's Name: _____

Latitude/Longitude of Observation: _____

City/Province or Department/State of Observation: _____

DATES OF OBSERVATIONS FOR EACH RTHU AGE/SEX CLASS		
<i>Fill in Category 4 below only if other categories are not used</i>	First (Autumn or Winter) Date This Age/Sex Was Observed YYYY/MM/DD	Last (Spring) Date This Age/Sex Was Observed YYYY/MM/DD
1. Adult Male (red throat) August-April		
2. Adult Female (white throat) January-April		
3. Undetermined Sex & Age (white throat, could be male or female of any age) August-December		
4. Undetermined Sex & Age (throat not seen) August-April		
5. Young Male (throat streaked in green or black and/or one or more red throat feathers) August-April		

Beginning about 1 August, EarthTrek observers in northern Mexico should begin watching hummingbird feeders and flowering plants for the earliest fall migrant Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*. (Do not report dates for any other hummingbird species, including those in which males may have red throats. Refer to the Operation RubyThroat Web site for help in identifying other hummingbirds and determining age/sex classes for RTHU.) Based on plumage, report when you see your first adult male and the first appearance(s) of any other age/sex classes. It is not known how long it takes RTHU to disperse from North American breeding grounds into their non-breeding "winter" range in Mexico and Central America, so depending on your location you will need to be diligent through about the middle of December. In spring report the last day(s) you observe RTHU, based on the birds' ages and sexes. No one knows when the last RTHU leave the Neotropics on their northward journey, but there are no tropical records for the species after 30 April; locations for any RTHU present in Mexico or Central America between 1 May and 31 July should be reported directly to research@hiltonpond.org. Use other side of this sheet to jot down anecdotal observations or questions that may arise. Transfer the data above to the relevant online form on the EarthTrek Web site.