

Operation RubyThroat

Hummingbird Nesting Protocol Work Sheet (U.S & Canada ONLY)



It is believed for most locales male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds arrive first in spring migration, after which they establish breeding territories. Females probably arrive a week to so later, choose a male, mate, and construct a nest from spider webs, lichens, and plant down. Males are not known to participate in nest building, incubation, brooding, or nestling care. RTHU do not nest in Mexico or Central America. For this RTHU nesting protocol you should collect as much information as possible about various aspects of nesting behavior, based on date. This includes such activities as when nest construction began and ended, when eggs hatched and nestlings fledged, etc. Of special interest is the rate of nesting failures, whether a nest is re-used, if a given female appears to double- or triple-brood, and if there is any male activity at the nest. **After fledging occurs, transfer the data below to the relevant online form on the EarthTrek Web site.**

Observer's Name: _____

Latitude/Longitude of Nest: _____

City/County or Parish/State of Nest: _____

DO NOT DISTURB AN ACTIVE HUMMINGBIRD NEST IN ANY WAY

DATES OF OBSERVATIONS FOR RTHU NESTING ACTIVITIES

Date Nest Was Found (yyyy/mm/dd): _____

- Check One: 1st set of eggs at this nest during this year
 2nd set of eggs at this nest during this year
 3rd set of eggs at this nest during this year

Record dates for the following activities. It is possible you will not observe everything listed; even so, it is very important to report whatever data you have.

OBSERVATION	DATE (yyyy/mm/dd)
Start of Nest Construction	
End of Nest Construction	
Laying of First Egg	
Laying of Second Egg	
First Sighting of Adult Female on Nest	
First Egg Hatched	
Second Egg Hatched	
First Sighting of Nestlings in Nest	
First Nestling Leaves Nest	
Second Nestling Leaves Nest	
Last Sighting of Adult Female on Nest	

(Work Sheet continues on back of page)

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(Please complete information on other side of Work Sheet)

Number of eggs laid: 0 1 2 Unknown

Number of eggs that hatched: 0 1 2 Unknown

Number of nestlings that fledged: 0 1 2 Unknown

If nest was destroyed prior to fledging, indicate cause below.

Check One: Natural Predator (hawk, jay, squirrel etc.)

Feral Cat

Weather

Human Interference

Unknown

Record dates and anecdotal observations of ANY adult male RTHU behavior at the nest. Be careful to report only WHAT you actually see, NOT an interpretation of what you see.

Examples:

2 Jul 2009—Male perched on nest for 30 seconds (NOT “male incubated eggs”)

9 Jul 2009—Male flew over nest (NOT “male defended nest area”)

Anecdotal information (including type of vegetation in which nest was found, with common and scientific names of tree, vine, or shrub, if known; height of nest from ground; whether nest site was used in a preceding year; other interesting observations; etc.).

After nesting observations are complete you have the option to send via e-mail up to three sharp JPEG photos of your RTHU nest to research@hiltonpond.org. Please compress each photo to less than 1MB in size. Put “EarthTrek Nest Photos” as the subject line and be sure to include in the body of your e-mail your name, city/state, and date(s) photos were taken. (Especially needed: one close-up photo and one showing the nest in its habitat). Please inquire in advance before submitting nest videos. You retain the copyright on all images, but submission of photos indicates you are willing to allow EarthTrek/Operation RubyThroat to use them for non-commercial purposes. Please do not watermark your photos.