

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 57

October 6, 2024

by Sandy Sorkin

Ruby-throated Hummingbird



I have virtually no input as to what my wife plants in her gardens. I say virtually because my only request is that she plant flowers that attract hummingbirds. She has been amazingly successful with her plant selections as evidenced by the fact that the birds go to her flowers, and I can't attract them away from the flowers to my red-plastic feeders. (Maybe it is an esthetic thing on the part of the hummingbirds.)

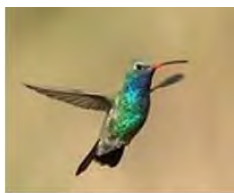
Ruby-throateds show up individually, but every now and then we get a pair. There is little competition with so many flowers. That is not always the case. On rare occasions, a very protective rufous hummingbird will arrive in the garden and assume ownership of everything.



In early September, the hummingbirds rarely leave the garden. I assume they are bulking up for migration. By mid-September, the irregular visitors to the garden are probably migrants that see an opportunity as they fly over.

On one occasion, while I was photographing in the yard, a swarm of gnats centered itself near a perch. The ruby-throated took this opportunity to feed. I don't believe I've ever seen a hummingbird with its mouth as wide open as this one. But I assume that is what you need to do to grab gnats.

If you would like to see your photographs highlighted here, send one or two pictures with a short paragraph to Sandy Sorkin & Rick Wright at MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com.



Southwest Wings

