

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Hotspot
in
Central Pennsylvania**

By Edie Parnum

Visiting a Hummingbird Hotspot Spruce Creek, PA

- Visited August 18-19-20, 2007
- 7 Quart-sized Feeders, 5 clustered together at a bank of windows



- Saw hundreds of hummingbirds
- Up to six feeding simultaneously at feeder with six ports
- Feeding amicably together; competition seen rarely







Feeding Hummingbirds at Nevels' Property

- Makes 1 gallon of sugar water each day
- Buys 20 lbs of sugar every two weeks
- Personally saw a 1-qt feeder totally emptied in 24 hours



Hummingbird Schedule

- May 1 first Ruby-throat arrives
- Only 2 feeders needed during May
- Peak numbers of hummingbirds seen from mid-July to 3rd week of August
- Last hummer Oct. 1

Location of Nevels Property

- Huntingdon Co., Central Pennsylvania, near State College
- In Spruce Creek valley at base of Tussey Mountain, Rothrock State Forest
- Part of Appalachian Mountains

Habitat at Nevels Property

- In valley below a wooded mountainside
- Property includes stream, pond, wetlands, and gardens
- Moderate number of flowers

Other Ruby-throated Hummingbird Hotspots

- Penns Creek, PA, about 50 miles from Spruce Creek (27 feeders, 1000 hummers)
- Blairstown, NJ (37 feeders, 1000+)
- Vicinity of Elkins, WV (500-1000)
 - 3 hotspots here



Characteristics of RTHU Hotspots

- Many along mountain range at foot of wooded mountainside
 - Not true of WV hotspots
- Possibly streamside location important
- Flowers probably not particularly important
 - RTHU diet 60-70% insects year-round

Common to All Hotspots

- High number of feeders
- Feeding stations maintained over the years