

rec'd 10/30/04

2004-58

7-0 (A)

748 Grey Eagle Cir., South
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
27 October 2004

Mr. Tony Leukering
Chairman, Colorado Bird Records Committee
P.O. Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601

Dear Mr. ^{Tony}Leukering:

References: A. USGS Bird Banding Laboratory permit 23315
B. Colorado Division of Wildlife license 04-BD894A2
C. National Park Service research permit ROMO-2004-SCI 0001

This letter submits documenting evidence for the capture, banding, and release of a hatch year male Ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) on 7 September 2004 in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). We captured this hummingbird as a part of a survey of hummingbird populations in RMNP. References A-C are the permits for this research project. The following information is also pertinent for the record:

- a. Capture/banding location: Moraine Park, Larimer County, RMNP
- b. Site geographic coordinates: 40°21'03"N/105°35'19"W
- c. Date/time of capture: 7 September 2004 at 1320 MDT
- d. Measurements: mass, 3.2 grams; wing chord, 41.5 millimeters (mm.); rectrix (r1) length, 23 mm; exposed culmen length, 15.0 mm; extent of culmen longitudinal striations, ~80%; and, gorget stippling, medium-light with no iridescent gorget feathers visible.
- e. Researchers: Fred and Tena Engelman (23315/A)

Images and notes for identification of the RTHU are shown in enclosure 1, and the images and text of this letter are on the CD-ROM, enclosure 2.

We sent measurements and images of this RTHU to two authoritative sources for confirmation of species, sex, and age: Mr. Bob Sargent of Trussville, Alabama and Mr. Fred Bassett of Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Sargent is the author of *Wild Bird Guides - Ruby-Throated Hummingbird* (a Stackpole publication) and is a coauthor of *The Birds of North America*, monograph 204, Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Information provided by them is included in the notes for enclosure 1. You also confirmed their assessment when you reviewed the images at McGraw Research Ranch, RMNP on 10 October, and we appreciate your assistance as well.

If the CBRC has any questions or needs more information, please contact me at (719) 548-8671.

Cordially,

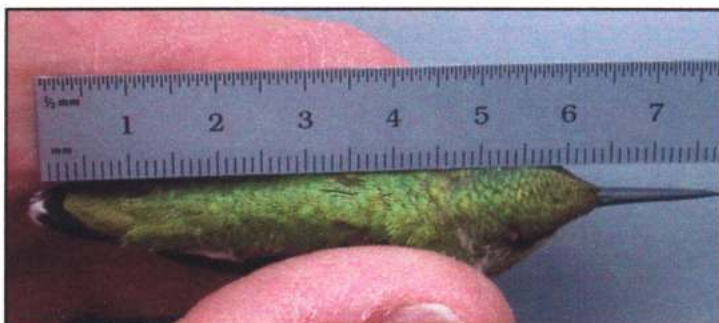

Fred Engelman, Jr.

Enclosures: 1. Annotated Images
2. CD-ROM

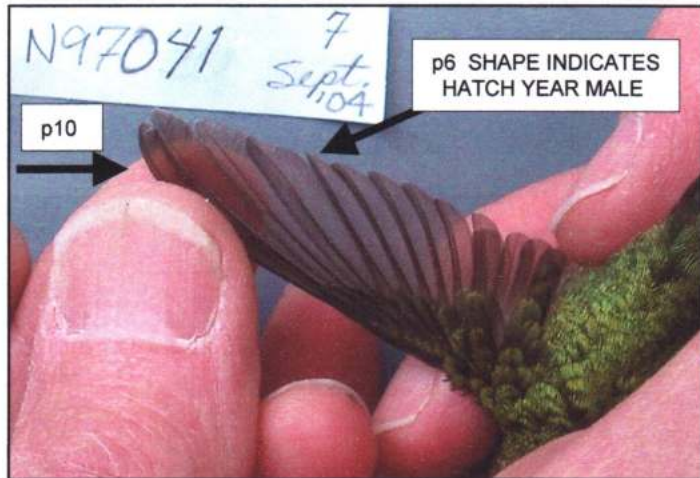
**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*ARCHILOCHUS COLUBRIS*), HATCH YEAR MALE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, COLORADO, 7 SEPTEMBER 2004**



**FIGURE 1.
TOP VIEW SHOWING EMERALD GREEN BACK**



**FIGURE 2.
SIMILAR TO FIGURE 1 - DEPICTING LENGTH**



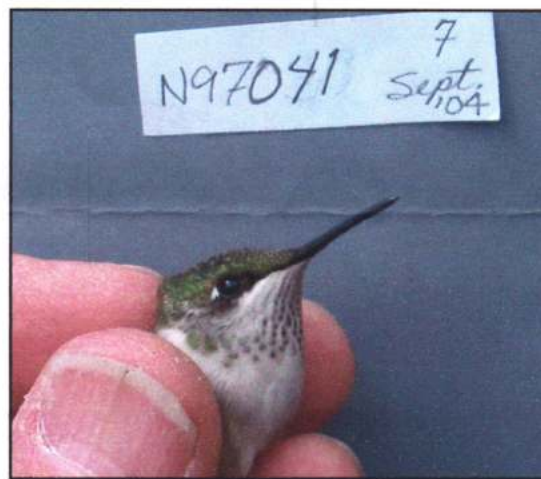
**FIGURE 5.
P10 SHAPE INDICATES RTHU AND P6 INDICATES MALE**



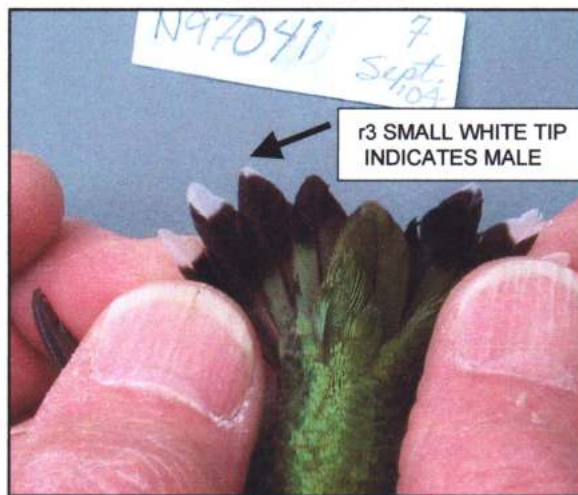
**FIGURE 7.
MEASURED, Banded, AND RELEASED**



**FIGURE 3.
GORGET - NO ADULT FEATHERS YET**



**FIGURE 4.
PROFILE OF HEAD**



**FIGURE 6.
DISTINCTIVE *ARCHILOCHUS* RECTRICES**

Images by Tena Engelman

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colibrus*), Hatch Year Male
Rocky Mountain National Park, 7 September 2004**

Notes keyed to images:

Figure 1. The distinctive emerald green back of this hatch year (HY) Ruby-throated hummingbird (RTHU) is much different than the dull green color of a HY Black-chinned hummingbird (*A. alexandrii*).

Figure 2. This image shows the overall length in centimeters.

Figure 3. This view shows the light to medium stippling of the gorget and the very light color of the breast area. No male red gorget feathers are evident, indicating that this is a very young male hummingbird.

Figure 4. This profile shows throat stippling that is consistent with appearance of a HY male RTHU.

Figure 5. The shape of primary (p) 10 is narrow compared to that of a Black-chinned hummingbird. The Black-chinned p10 would be wider and more rounded. The sharp, "splinter" shape of the outer web of p6 indicates a HY male RTHU.

Figure 6. Rectrices (r) are indicative of *Archilochus* species with r1 shorter than other rectrices giving a "V" shape to the tail. The relatively short length of the rectrices is another indication of a very young RTHU.

Figure 7. This overall view shows the coloration, size, and shape typical of a HY male RTHU.