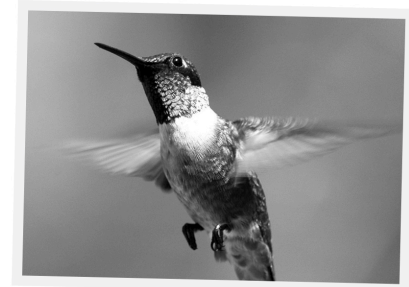


A shot taken of me just  
before we left Costa Rica...  
it's my good side...



John L. Richbourg

Ms. Jen Love  
71 Euclid Ave  
Waterloo ON N2L 1Z2

Dear Jen,

June 11, 2010

I bet you've never received a letter from a bird before.

That's OK. I've never written a letter before! Caroline Schultz and the team at Ontario Nature wanted you to hear my story from my point of view.

What a journey it was for me this year!

I just arrived back home here in Ontario's spectacular boreal forest after my annual 4,500 kilometre migration from Costa Rica.

Flying across the Gulf of Mexico was different for me this year - did you know that there is a massive and foul oil spill there? I had a lump in my ruby throat flying over that disaster.

But my journey was just beginning.

The northern United States is always treacherous for me. Clouds of pesticides from airplanes are the worst - but by now, I and other hummingbirds have become used to it, and we know to steer clear.

And then, I was elated to fill my lungs with fresh, clean air. I'm home in Ontario! I can smell the boreal forest and the wonderful, wild, natural space. What a beautiful province we share!

I'm guided toward the Rouge River, and I'm home free. My heart beats 1,200 times a minute when I fly. And it skips a few

beats when I find the Rouge.

I follow the river north.

WHAT!?

What was that? I thought I saw another ruby-throated hummingbird right in front of me, and as I skirted left, so did he. I skirted right, so did he. I hovered. So did he.

I was looking at me! There was a monstrous structure, clear like a window, right in front of me. I flew straight up until the strange image was gone. And I continued.

I know now what that was. The deadliest building for birds in Toronto. To us birds, it is a wall of windows, right on the shore of a path that we all take to get home to the boreal forest - and we can't see it!

I was lucky. I can hover in the air, so I avoided a collision. Many others suffer a horrible fate. I hear that thousands of migrating birds die every year hitting this building!

Friends of Ontario Nature - these bird deaths are preventable!

Caroline from Ontario Nature can tell you more about Ontario Nature's action to prevent bird strikes, and I hope that you'll help out in any way that you can. You'll also find a map of my migration path on the back of Caroline's note - see for yourself why some buildings are so dangerous!

Today, as I chirp to you, I'm home and safe in the boreal forest. Your support helps me get home every single year. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Y Y

Ruby





Dear Friend of Ontario Nature – and “Ruby”!

Don't you wish you could get a letter from a bird every day? Talk about your birds-eye view!

Bird strikes are a critical issue for Ontario Nature. As many as 2 billion birds die each year as a result of smashing into windows across North America. Bird strikes are a deadly reality all along Lake Ontario, and endangered bird species including Acadian flycatchers, Canada warblers and whip-poor-wills are killed during spring and fall migration every year in our province from colliding with buildings.

Will you help us take action today?

Ontario Nature, with our lawyers from Ecojustice, has launched a lawsuit against developers. Between 2000 and 2006, 465 ruby-throated hummingbirds were killed by one building alone. Each year, bird strikes kill over 1 million birds in Toronto.

These deaths are completely preventable. A simple film can be applied to windows and glass linkways that connect buildings. When birds fly at a mirrored window they see vegetation and sky reflected back at them and continue to fly. And “lights out” initiatives at night are also very important during migration season.

Business owners must know that they have a responsibility under the law to protect wildlife. It's not voluntary.

Your gift today will help with our current lawsuit, and will help us continue to insist on responsible development in our province. Raise your voice with us today and speak up for migrating birds.

Please, give as generously as you can.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Schultz".

Caroline Schultz  
Executive Director, Ontario Nature



*P.S. Our friend “Ruby” made it back to the boreal forest – you can help make sure more hummingbirds and other migrating birds get home safely every year. Join us to protect wild species and wild spaces in our province and confront developers who violate our laws. You can also visit [www.ontarionature.org/birdstrikes](http://www.ontarionature.org/birdstrikes) for more information on our legal action to protect migrating birds. Thank you!*

# THE RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD'S MIGRATION PATH

