



Hello,

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,

✚ ✚
Ruby