

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



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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 the spectacular boreal forest in Ontario after my annual 1,000 kilometre migration from Mexico.

Flying across the Gulf of Mexico was different for me this year - did you know there is a massive and foul oil spill? I had a lump in my ruby throat flying over that disaster. Luckily I was able to make a quick stop on one of the offshore oil rigs and clear my lungs out again.

After all, my journey was just beginning.

The northern United States is always treacherous for me. Clouds of pesticide 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 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 at 1,200 times a minute when I fly. And it skips a

Yes, Ruby! I hear your chirp and I'll speak up for you!

Here is my special gift to Ontario Nature of: \$X \$XX \$XXX Other \$_____

- I have enclosed a cheque payable to Ontario Nature
- I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my VISA MasterCard AMEX

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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 she. I skirted right, so did she. I hovered. So did she.

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. Consillium Place. A building. 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 Consillium Place is 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

You can make a lasting gift to Ontario Nature and make a difference every single day by joining our Friends of Nature monthly giving program. Our Friends of Nature provide us with a steady and ongoing source of income that we use to confidently plan ahead and to respond quickly to urgent and promising projects. By making your gift each month, you can make a truly significant gift to nature in Ontario!

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Thank you for your monthly gift! We will process your gift on or around the 28th of each month. You will receive an annual charitable tax receipt from us - helping us cut down on costs and save paper are additional benefits of our monthly giving program! Please contact Randie Hanlan anytime at 1-800-440-2366 extension 233 or randieh@ontarionature.org if you have changes or any questions about your support of Ontario Nature.