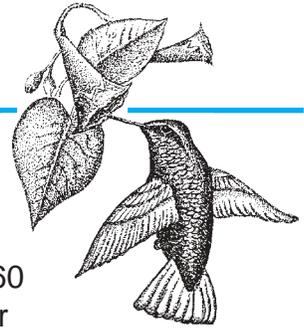


Hummingbirds



Tiny, iridescent hummingbirds can be an exciting addition to your backyard wildlife habitat. If hummingbirds live in your area, you can attract them by planting red, tubular flowers. There are many red-flowered plants to choose from. Over 160 native, North American plants depend exclusively on hummingbirds for pollination. Many of the red-flowered annuals, perennials, vines and shrubs available from mail order sources or local garden centers have been developed from the native red-flowered plants of the western hemisphere.

Interesting hummingbird facts

- ❖ Hummingbirds, like helicopters, can hover. They can also move ahead, sideways or backward at will.
- ❖ A ruby-throated hummingbird, weighing about one tenth of an ounce, can travel 600 miles total during migration.
- ❖ Hummingbirds not only sip nectar, but also eat tiny insects and spiders. They may drink up to eight times their body weight daily in water.
- ❖ There are 230 species of hummingbirds in the world; all found only in the western hemisphere. Of these, only one, the ruby-throated hummingbird, is found regularly east of the Mississippi.
- ❖ Flying consumes a great deal of a hummingbird's energy. Wingbeats have been measured at 20-200 beats per second.

Plants that most successfully attract hummingbirds:

Wild Columbine	Cardinal Flower	Butterfly Weed	Bee Balm
Trumpet-creeper	Wild Bergamot	Indian Paintbrush	Beardtongue
Larkspur	Phlox	Wild Bleeding Heart	Azalea
Coral Bells	Fire Pink	Spotted Touch-me-not	Blue-curls

Hummingbird Feeders

As a supplementary source of food, hummingbird feeders can be hung in your backyard wildlife habitat. Select feeders that can be taken apart and cleaned thoroughly to prevent fungus molds and bacteria.

Fill your feeders with a boiled solution of 4 parts water to 1 part white refined sugar. Any sweeter and the birds may develop kidney or liver damage. To blend the solution sufficiently, bring water to a full boil, add sugar, stir to dissolve and remove promptly from heat. Do not overboil; allow the solution to cool, storing unused portions in the refrigerator.

Warnings:

■ Since the safety of “food colorings” is in question, particularly red dyes, do not use food coloring in your solution. Avoid commercial solutions with red coloring also. It is not necessary to use red food coloring because most feeders already have red flowers or some form of red color decorated on them.

■ Do not use honey or brown sugar solutions in feeders as they may produce a fungal disease fatal to hummingbirds. Sugar water feeders should be cleaned every 3 to 5 days using hot water and a little vinegar. Do not use soap.