

Hummingbirds

The three most common hummingbirds for our area are Anna's, Black-chinned and Calliope hummingbirds (UNR)

Here are 5 common reasons why hummingbirds don't come to your feeder:

1. It is the wrong time of year
2. You are using the wrong nectar recipe
3. The feeders are in the wrong location
4. The feeders are dirty or the nectar has spoiled
5. Bees and ants have taken over the feeder

Hummingbirds never stop beating their wings, and with their tiny size can look like large bumblebees in the air. They fly in a direct path unless they are making a male display flight. Hummingbird wing speed varies depending on the species. The smaller the hummingbird, the faster it flaps its wings. [Ruby-throated hummingbird](#) wings beat about 50 times a second. A [rufous hummingbird](#)'s wings beat as fast as 52 to 62 wingbeats per second.

Hummingbirds recognize and remember people and have been known to fly about their heads to alert them to empty feeders or sugar water that has gone bad. ... Hummingbirds can grow accustomed to people and even be induced to perch on a finger while feeding.

Hummingbirds often find a twig that's sheltered from the wind to rest on for the night. Also, in winter, they can enter a deep sleep-like state known as torpor. This odd behavior usually happens on cold nights, but sometimes they go into a torpid state during the day.

12 Fun Facts About Hummingbirds

1. They are the smallest migrating bird. They don't migrate in flocks like other species, and they typically travel alone for up to 500 miles at a time.
2. The name, hummingbird, comes from the humming noise their wings make as they beat so fast.
3. Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards.
4. Hummingbirds have no sense of smell. While they can't sniff out feeders, they do have good color vision. Some birds like the Ruby-throated Hummingbird prefer orange or red flowers. Despite this, red dye should not be used in nectar as it could harm the birds. Instead, plant naturally red or orange flowers or use feeders that have red coloring in their structure.
5. The average weight of a hummingbird is less than a nickel.
6. Their tiny legs are only used for perching and moving sideways while perched. They can't walk or hop.
7. Hummingbirds drink the nectar found in feeders by moving their tongue in and out about 13 times per second. They can consume up to double their body weight in a day.
8. The average number of eggs laid by female hummingbirds is only two. These eggs have been found in nests smaller than a half dollar and compare in size to a jellybean or a coffee bean. Some species, like the Black-chinned Hummingbird make their nests with plant down, spider silk, and other natural resources that can expand as their babies grow after hatching.
9. A flock of hummingbirds can be referred to as a bouquet, a glittering, a hover, a shimmer, or a tune.
10. There are over 330 species of hummingbirds in North and South America. Common species in the U.S. include:
11. Life Span is 3-5 years
12. Hummingbirds return to the same Gardens

How to Safely Attract Hummingbirds

1. Clean your hummingbird feeders regularly: remove and clean your feeder with 9 parts warm water to 1 part bleach outdoors once a week to ensure no mold or salmonella grow in the feeder. Hummingbirds are more likely to feed off fresh sugar water and a consistently clean feeder will ensure regular feedings!
2. Add native plants near your hummingbird feeder: plants like honeysuckle or other bright tubular species will hold more nectar and naturally attract hummingbirds to your yard.
3. Provide hummingbirds the best nutrition: hummingbirds love sweet formulas and will eat nectar and sugar water all season long. DO NOT add red food color to mix. Spring and summer are the perfect time to start feeding these tiny birds!