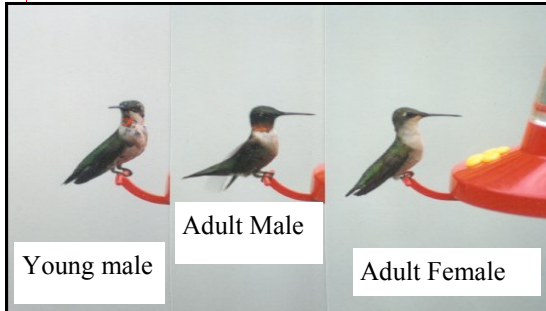


# Hummingbird Facts



- There are over 330 species of hummingbirds, all in the western hemisphere.
- There are 17 species known to breed in the United States
- Our Ruby-throated hummingbirds migrate, starting in late August through mid-late October) to Central America. Many fly over the gulf of Mexico , non-stop for about 600 miles (that's about 18 hours of non-stop flying!)
- Hummingbirds Migrate alone (NOT on the backs of geese or with any other birds). Even young birds face their first migration on their own. They often nearly double their body weight just before migration and can be seen “tanking up” at feeders for the flight.
- A Hummingbird *can* live 10 years or more, but the average life span of a male Ruby-throat is 2-3 years, while the females live 3-5 years.
- Depending on the area of the country, Hummingbirds can have one or two nests per season. They lay two eggs which hatch a couple of days apart.
- Hummingbird nests are VERY small (usually a quarter will not fit inside !) It is often placed on a small, pencil-sized limb, approx 10-50 feet high.
- Fledgling hummingbirds coming to the feeders will weigh about as much as adults. They are about the same size, but their bill is shorter, but that is often difficult to distinguish without measuring the bill.
- Banding research has documented that hummers have great fidelity to feeding stations along their migration path– they will return to the same feeders year after year!

## Attracting Hummingbirds

The best way to attract the **most** hummers and keep them in your yard as long as possible is to put out a **combination** of lots of hummingbird feeders and masses of colorful flowers. It doesn't take a great deal of space to do this. In many areas of the country it is possible to host hummingbirds in your yard at least Six Months every year!



### Tips for Hosting Hummers:

- Put Feeders out early! (April 1st in many areas, the last week in March in *some* areas!)
- Keep feeders Clean & Nectar fresh (See feeder cleaning recipe inside this brochure)
- Plant flowers that bloom early and some that will be in bloom all season ( suggestions inside)
- Combine feeders and flowers in your space. Plant flowers in “masses” of color . Feeders will encourage hummers to stay in your yard longer– the nectar is more readily available for longer periods of time.
- **Keep a yearly RECORD of your hummingbird activity!** This is the best way to know what to expect each season and to discover what is working best in your area.
- Don't forget to **place your feeders where you can see them often!**

**BIRDS - I - VIEW**  
Jefferson City, MO

# Hummingbirds!



Committed to providing products & information that benefit wildlife.

**573-638-BIRD(2473)**  
**[www.birds-i-view.biz](http://www.birds-i-view.biz)**

Steve & Regina Garr are the owners of **Birds-I-View** and have spent many years committed to helping others enjoy and learn more about the Hummingbirds that visit their "space".

No Educational Brochure on Hummingbirds would be complete with out an enormous expression of gratitude for the life work of the late **Bob Sargent and his wife Martha**. These two special people founded the Hummer/Bird Study Group which did more to facilitate information and research about hummingbirds than any other organization we know. Steve is appreciative of the time Bob and Martha invested in teaching him to band hummingbirds and allowing him to participate in research on "Wintering Hummingbirds". Steve and Regina are both grateful for the Sargent's friendship and years of guidance

#### Great Resources for information on Hummingbirds:

- **Hummingbird Research, Inc.**  
[www.hummingbirdresearch.net](http://www.hummingbirdresearch.net)  
(Continuing the vision of Bob and Martha Sargent)  
1520 Katrina Place  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
(334) 868-9658

See the above website to support their work!

- **www.hummingbirds.net** (Lanny Chambers in St. Louis area)
  - **The Hummingbird Society**  
[www.hummingbirdsociety.org](http://www.hummingbirdsociety.org)

#### Find an injured hummingbird?

Contact either of these locations in Missouri:

**Wild Bird Rehab, St Louis 314-426-6400**

**[www.wildbirdrehab.org](http://www.wildbirdrehab.org)**

**Lakeside Nature Center, Kansas City, MO**  
816-513-8960 **[www.lakesidenaturecenter.org](http://www.lakesidenaturecenter.org)**

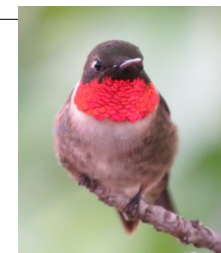
## Favorite Plants for Hummingbirds:

Coral Honeysuckle  
Cardinal Flower  
Cardinal Vine  
Coral Bells  
Columbine  
Blue Sage  
Fire Pinks  
Bleeding heart  
Impatiens  
Pineapple Sage  
Butterfly weed  
Garden Phlox  
Water Canna  
Four-O-Clocks  
Turk's Cap  
Blue Lobelia  
Blazing Star  
Red Hot Poker  
Red Buckeye  
All Salvia Species

Species *other* than the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have been documented and banded East of the Rockies. If you see any hummingbird after November 1st, please call us: **573-638-BIRD (2473)**



**Rufous hummingbird**



### Hummingbird Nectar Recipe:

The objective when making nectar for Hummingbirds is to match what they get in nature as closely as possible. **The average ratio of sugar to water that they receive from flowers is 1:4** (a 25% sugar mixture)

#### One part Sugar to Four parts Water.

So One Cup of Sugar in Four Cups of Hot water is a great mix. Stir until dissolved and keep excess in the refrigerator for up to two weeks. Hummingbirds do eat small, soft-bodied insects, so there is no need to add extra minerals or supplements to the nectar. (They receive the nutrition they need from the arthropods they consume). And Please do NOT use honey or artificial sweeteners— this can be very harmful to the bird.

Red food coloring is not necessary and not advised. Nectar in the flowers that hummingbirds visit ranges between a ratio of 1:3 and 1:5 . Please do not think you are doing hummingbirds a favor by making the nectar "Extra Sweet"! Just stick with the average of what Nature provides , which is

One part Sugar to Four parts water.

**Remember: Keep the Nectar Clean & Fresh!**  
**Change nectar every 2-3 days once temperatures reach 80+ degrees.**

*Perhaps one-half of the hummingbirds diet is made up of small arthropods such as fruit flies, gnats, mosquitoes, aphids, spiders, caterpillars, and insect eggs!*

#### Cleaning Hummingbird Feeders:

We are very pleased with many of the **Natural Enzymes** on the market for cleaning hummingbird feeders! They target organic/vegetative bacteria, and are a great way to clean feeders with out the use of harsh chemicals! This is now our preferred method for cleaning feeders. Another option: Flush feeders with hot water at every filling. Use a bottle brush and Port brush if necessary. Once per month soak feeders in a solution of 1/4 Cup Bleach per Gallon of water , soak for one hour , rinse thoroughly , refill feeders and enjoy the Hummers!

*Steve & Regina Garr*

**Birds-I-View**

512 Ellis Blvd/ Jefferson City, MO 65101

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