

# Attracting Hummingbirds

By Sherry Fuller



Hummingbirds are common residents in our area during the summer months. They usually arrive by mid to late April and leave sometime in September. The most common variety here is the black-chinned hummingbird. These fit their description; the males have a black throat patch bordered by a dark purple stripe. Rufous hummingbirds are also common later in the summer when they migrate through the area. These are smaller and have an overall orange or reddish appearance. Rufous hummingbirds are very aggressive and guard feeders or favorite nectar plants, chasing other hummingbirds and even larger birds from the area. Several other species may also be seen occasionally in the area.

**FEEDERS** – Fill hummingbird feeders with special mixes or use 1 part sugar to 3 or 4 parts water. Boil several minutes to thoroughly dissolve the sugar, then cool before using. Do not use honey or red dye. Keep feeders clean and replace sugar water as it discolors or gets cloudy. Hang feeders where you can easily see the visiting birds.

**PLANTS** – Hummingbirds are especially attracted to tubular red, orange and pink flowers. Below is a list of plants with flowers for our area that are known to attract hummingbirds.

## PERENNIALS

Bee-balm, Monarda  
Butterfly weed, Asclepias  
Cardinal flower, Lobelia  
Columbine, Aquilegia  
Coral bells, Heuchera  
Single hollyhocks, Alcea  
Indian paintbrush, Castilleja  
Maltese cross, Lychnis  
Red hot poker, Kniphofia  
Scarlet gilia, Ipomopsis  
Penstemon, Penstemon  
Sunset hyssop, Agastache  
Double bubble hyssop, Agastache  
Hummingbird trumpet, Zauschneria  
Fireweed, Epilobium

## ANNUALS

Flowering tobacco  
Fuchsia  
Lantana  
Petunia  
Pineapple sage  
Salvia, esp. red varieties  
Four o'clock

## VINES

Trumpet honeysuckle, Lonicera  
Trumpet vine, Campsis

## SHRUBS

Butterfly bush, Buddleia  
Flowering currant, Ribes  
Honeysuckle, Lonicera

