

RESOURCES:

Websites:

www.hummingbirdworld.com

www.birdweb.org/birdweb/home.asp

www.hummingbird.org

www.audubon.org

www.nothingbutnwnatives.com

Books:

- Grant, Karen A. and V. Grant. *Hummingbirds and Their Flowers*. 1968. Columbia University Press, New York, NY.
- Johnsgard, Paul A. *Hummingbirds of North America*, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1983.
- Link, Russell. *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*. 1999. University of Washington Press, Seattle & London, in association with the Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Merilees, Bill. *Attracting Backyard Wildlife*. 1989. Voyageur Press, Stillwater, MN.
- Mizejewski, David. *Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife*. Creative Homeowner, 2004.
- Newfield, Nancy L. and Barbara Nielson. *Hummingbird Gardens: Attracting Nature's Jewels to Your Backyard*, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1996.
- Sibley, David Allen. *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*. Chanticleer Press, 1997.

Groups:

- **The Hummingbird Society**,
P.O. Box 394, Newark, ED, 19715.
- **The National Audubon Society**,
700 Broadway, New York, NY, 10003.

Supplies:

- **Droll Yankees Inc.**, 27 Mill Rd.,
Foster, RI 02825.
www.drolleyankees.com
- **Duncraft**, 102 Fisherville Rd.,
Concord, NH 03303.
www.duncraft.com
- **Wildbirds Unlimited**, 270 stores
nationwide.
www.wbu.com

Are you interested in attracting a variety of wildlife to your yard? The National Wildlife Federation offers the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. It is designed for any size yard. Your yard can be certified if it meets the requirements for food, water, and shelter.

For more information, contact:

The National Wildlife Federation, Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22184-0001.

www.nwf.org/habitats

**For more information:
Contact the Master Gardener
Diagnostic Clinic
May through September**

Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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[http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/extension/
default.asp](http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/extension/default.asp)

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CREATING A HUMMINGBIRD GARDEN



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ATTRACTING NATIVE HUMMINGBIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN

To say that amazing things come in small packages is an understatement when it comes to hummingbirds.

Hummingbirds are beautiful to look at, colorful, energetic, feisty, and fun to watch. They can fly right, left, up down, forwards, backwards, right-side up OR upside down. This is made possible but the fact that not only do they get their flight power from the down-stroke of the wing, but from the up-stroke as well.

Their wings can beat up to 50 times per SECOND. Most of the time the wings just look like a blur and the hummingbird looks suspended in air. Because of this fast paced lifestyle, they have a high breathing rate, heart rate and body temperature.

To keep up with this lifestyle, the hummingbird must consume about 2/3 of their body-weight on any given day. Which means they are on a constant hunt for food (fuel) and eat every 10 minutes or so.

FEEDING HABITS

Hummingbirds fulfill their feeding needs through trees, bushes, vines, flowers, hummingbird feeders, tree sap, insects and water. Hummingbirds are attracted to color, especially red. Favorites are tubular-shaped flowers that are on the outside of the plant. This allows the hummingbirds to feed without their wings hitting any foliage.

HUMMINGBIRD SPECIES NATIVE TO EASTERN WASHINGTON & THEIR HABITAT

Anna's: Anna's Hummingbirds have adapted to live in a wide variety of habitats. Chaparral found on the Pacific coast is their traditional habitat. They are being found more often in suburban gardens where feeders and exotic landscaping provide them with food throughout the year. In Washington, Anna's Hummingbirds can be found in suburban parks, gardens, and coastal valleys.

Black-Chinned: In Washington, Black-chinned Hummingbirds can be found from desert canyons to suburban homes. Commonly in the shrub steppe and Ponderosa pine zones, they are found in wetland areas, along rivers, and in towns. Males are often found in drier areas than nearby females.

Calliope: Calliope Hummingbirds are the smallest bird in North America. They are found in northwestern montane environments. Breeding in mixed brush-land, forest edges, and openings, they are commonly found in the Ponderosa pine zone.

Rufous: These birds are at home in the Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies, all the way up to Alaska. In damp regions, Rufous Hummingbirds are found in many habitat types. However, in drier regions, they will look to higher elevations and areas where rainfall is greater.

RECOMMENDED PLANTINGS

Annuals: *Scarlet Sage, Salvia, Petunia, Flowering Tobacco, Clarkia*, Four O'Clock, Nasturtium, Zinnia, Snap-Drum, Fuchsia, and Spider Flower.*

Perennials: *Columbine*, Foxglove, Daylily, Coral Bells*, Paintbrush*, Bleeding Heart*, Penstemon*, Hedge-nettle*, and Red Hot Pokers.*

Vines: *Trumpet Honeysuckle, Orange Honeysuckle*, Morning Glory, Trumpet Vine, and Scarlet Runner Bean.*

Trees & Shrubs: *Dogwood*, Crabapple*, Weigela, Red Currant*, Salmonberry*, Tall Oregon Grape (Mahonia aquifolium), Arnold's Red Honeysuckle, Butterfly Bush, and Rose of Sharon.*

** Plant may be native to the Pacific Northwest.*

USING HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

Attracting hummingbirds can also be as easy as putting up a hummingbird feeder. Feeders can provide an easily accessible and energy saving food source to the hummingbirds, especially before and after blooming season.

Nectar Solution: Use one part cane sugar to four parts water. Allow solution to boil for a minimum of 30 seconds. Then, allow to cool before filling feeder. Solution can be stored in a refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.



Be sure to only fill feeder with enough nectar solution to last a couple of days. It will reduce fermentation and the formation of mold as well as wasting minimal solution between fillings.

Do not use artificial sweeteners, coloring, honey or microwave the solution. Commercial solutions are available but tend to be more expensive and may contain elements that can be harmful to hummingbirds (dye, preservatives, coloring, flavoring).

Cleaning: Feeders should be cleaned at least every 3 days in hot weather and every 6-7 days in cooler weather. Cleaning is very, very important because the solution can ferment and become moldy.

Cleaning steps include:

- 1) Empty all remaining solution and rinse with warm water,
- 2) Add a small amount of vinegar and uncooked rice to feeder, then shake and rinse to dislodge any mold,
- 3) Empty feeder and rinse with warm water,
- 4) Scrub any remaining mold spots with a small brush,
- 5) Rinse, rinse, rinse, then rinse one more time.

Feeder Placement & Safety: For your enjoyment, hang your feeder in a frequently used window, such as the kitchen or living room. However, be sure there is something on or behind the window so the hummingbird will know not to fly into the glass. Curtains, decals or mini-blinds will often be enough.