

Expect them at the end of March and beginning of April

Types of Hummingbirds in North Carolina



Ruby-Throated
As the name suggest, these hummingbirds have ruby colored feathers in their throats.



Buff-Bellied
The beak of the male is red with a black tip.



Broad Tail
These birds prefer to live in places with higher elevations. Because of the cold temperatures, they enter in a state of torpor to slow their metabolism.

Hummingbird Garden Guide

Zone 8

Tips for a great Hummingbird garden

Nectar Recipe

Facts about Hummingbirds

Types that visit North Carolina

Rufous
These species are bright orange on the back and the belly.



Anna's
Males like to make a dramatic dive to courtship the females.



Calliope
This species is the tiniest hummingbird in the United States.



Allen's
This species is very similar in appearance to the Rufous Hummingbirds. The difference lies in their narrow tails.

Black-Chinned
These birds are dull metallic and grayish white. The males have purple metallic feathers.



Broad-Billed
One of the most colorful species of Hummingbirds showing bright colors of metallic blues and greens.





Photo by Josua J. Cotten

If you're an avid gardener you probably love the sight of a Hummingbird in your garden. These tiny birds get their name from the sound they make when flapping their wings while flying. They are excellent flyers and pollinators. Even though, the majority of Hummingbirds are found in the tropics, at least 9 species out of the 360 have been spotted in North Carolina during their migration season; with the Ruby-throated being the most common.

The diet of these birds consists mainly of nectar but they also eat other insects and even spiders. The insects and spiders provide them with salts and other nutrients they can't get from the flowers. Additionally, Hummingbirds use the spiderwebs when making their nests.

Hummingbird Nectar Recipe

- 1/4 Cup of White Sugar
- 1 Cup of Water

Bring water to a boil. Once it starts boiling, turn off the heat. Add sugar and mix until dissolved. Let it cool before filling feeder. Remaining nectar can be stored in the fridge.

When planning a garden for Hummingbirds, besides colorful flowers, trees and shrubs are a must. These birds prefer areas that simulate forests and meadows. Providing them with a variety of plants not only for eating, but also for nesting, These combination will make it more likely for them to visit your area every year.

Butterfly Bush

Full Sun
 Height: 3-5'
 Water: Daily
 Well Drained Soil
 Mulch
 Perennial
 Blooms: Mid-Summer to Fall

Drought Resistant



Photo by Josua J. Cotten



Lobelia
 Full Sun
 Height: 24-36"
 Feed once a moth
 Water: Weekly
 Perennial
 Blooms: Summer



Photo by Josua J. Cotten



Photo by Amber Malquist

Zinnia
 Full Sun
 Height: 12-36"
 Water: once or twice per week
 Annual
 Blooms: Summer to Fall
 Remove spent flowers



Photo by Amber Malquist

Salvia
 Full Sun
 Height: 24-36"
 Water: Weekly
 Perennial
 Bloom: Spring to Fall
 Remove spent flowers



Photo by Rebecca Nivea

Petunia
 Full Sun
 Height: 12-15"
 Water: 2-3 times per week
 Feed weekly
 Annual
 Blooms: Summer to Fall
 Cut back to avoid leggy appearance.

Hummingbirds are able to see colors near the ultraviolet spectrum, enabling them to see more colors than humans.