



Pollinators of Texas

Upholding the ecosystem

Texas pollinators consist of . . .

- Ants
- Bats
- Bees
- Beetles
- Butterflies
- Flies
- Hummingbirds
- Moths
- Wasp





Facts



- Up to 80% of all plants are pollinated by critters
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world's most common food crops require insect pollination
- Livestock crops like alfalfa and clover are also pollinated by insects



*A single bee
can pollinate
5000 blossoms
in it's lifetime*

Like many animals, pollinators are

- losing habitat
- impacted by pesticides and pollution
- seeing food sources disappear
- struggling with climate change

So what should we do as good stewards of this planet?
Well that's what we are here to talk about.



Hummingbird Gardening



- Hummingbirds pollinate at least 184 species of plants.
- Populations of most species are in decline.
- Breeding is occurring earlier. This could cause a mismatch between food availability and babies hatching.



Hummingbirds in Our Area

Black-chinned



- The black-chinned is the most common hummingbird in our part of Texas
- This is a medium sized hummer. The male looks to have a black head, but when the sun catches the gorget, it is vibrant purple.



Rufous



- The rufous, so named for his copper colored feathers, is an aggressive bird.
- All the official sites claim that the Rufous are only in this area during migration, but I know folks who have them all summer long.

Ruby throat



- Ruby throats are generally considered the only hummers found east of the Mississippi River
- We see them in our area during migration.



Broad-
Billed



Allen's



Anna's



Berylline



Broad-
tailed



Blue Throated
Mountain Gem



Lucifer's



Green-
violet ear



Calliope

There are other hummingbirds
in Texas, but are more
common in far West Texas
and along the Gulf Coast.

For additional information check out
Hummingbirds in Texas
by Robert Frankson

<https://wildyards.com/hummingbirds-in-texas/>

Hummingbirds are Insectivores

- Many of the plants that attract butterflies will also attract the small insects hummers like.
- Limiting insecticides will provide hummers with the protein they and their babies need.
- Nectar provides hummers with the calories they need to keep them going.



Feeder Rules

- Change contents of your feeder at least every 3-4 days. If temps are over 90 degrees, every day.
- If feeder is moldy, wash bleach and water; rinse thoroughly.
- Mold can kill hummers and they can't always tell when its bad.
- Pick feeders based on ease of cleaning



- Sugar water only.
No honey, artificial sweeteners or dyes.
- Don't over-fill feeders.
It can causing leaking which attracts ants and other insects. Plus you don't want to waste it.
- Place feeders less than 5 ft or more than 15 ft. from windows. Collisions with windows are deadly for birds, especially hummers.

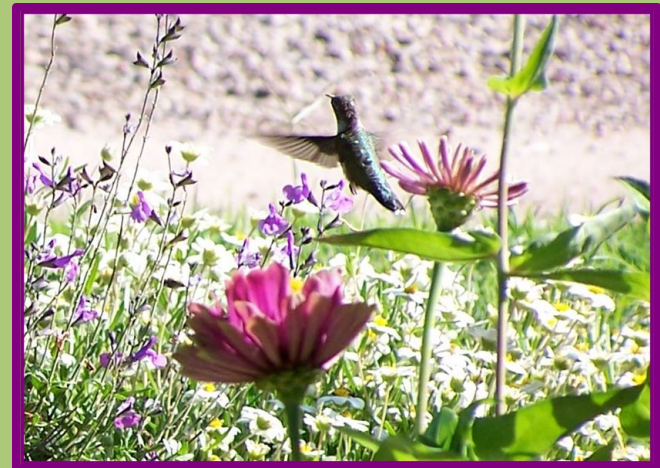


4 to 1 ratio of
water to sugar

You don't have to have
a feeder to attract
hummingbirds.

There are plenty of
plants that will do
the job.

Whether you want to
fill a garden or just
some flower pots, there
are plenty of choices.



Nectar Plants for Hummers

- Flame acanthus
- Salvias, particularly greggii, Galeana, and Black and Blue
- Turks Cap



- Cannas
- Coral honeysuckle
- Lantana



- Desert willow
- Larkspur
- Hibiscus



- Bee balm
- Red yucca
- Texas sage



What if I have limited space?

- No Problem!
- Support hummers with container plants.
- Try annuals like pentas, tropical hibiscus, petunias, million bells, and geraniums



Hummers are more
about sight than smell.
Mass colors

They are attracted to
reds, oranges, and
pinks.

Think bell or
trumpet shaped
flowers



Provide Water



- Moving water attracts birds, and hummers are no exception.
- Bubblers, fountains, and shallow birdbaths provide water for bathing.
- Misters that spray on nearby bushes work well, too.



If you want to take a hummingbird field trip, visit the Hummer House Bed and Breakfast in Christoval, south of San Angelo.



It's the home of the largest concentration of breeding black chin hummingbirds, as well as, painted buntings.



Day visitors are welcome to visit the Observation Room Saturday's from 9-1 from April through July.

West Texas Feeders Bird Cam

- Run by Cornell University
- They have several bird cams
- West Texas feeder is at Ft. Davis
- www.allaboutbirds.org/cams

