

Interesting Facts

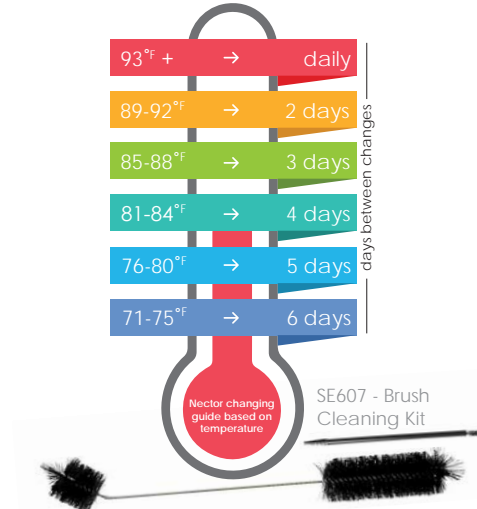
- Hummingbirds beat their wings about 78 times per second. During a display dive, that can reach a speed of 200 times per second.
- They take about 250 breaths per minute.
- Their hearts beat about 1,260 times per minute.
- During migration they must fly 500 miles nonstop over the Gulf of Mexico to reach their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America. To make the trip, they must eat enough so they weigh 1 ½ times their usual weight.
- They can fly at speeds of 60 miles per hour and can fly forwards, backwards, up down, sideways, and even upside down briefly. But, they can't walk.
- A Hummingbird's average life span is 3-5 years. The longest on record is 12 years.



The More You Know

Keeping your feeders clean is a vital aspect of feeding your birds. Hummingbirds prefer a fresh, clean food source and will reject an unclean feeder for life as fermented nectar supports the growth of deadly microorganisms like mold.

Clean your feeders with two parts warm water to one part vinegar. Let it soak for several hours to loosen the nectar residue and any mold buildup on the interior of the feeder. Use a brush to thoroughly clean the feeder and around the feeding ports. Rinse the feeder multiple times with cold water and let dry before refilling.



Want To Know More?

Visit www.SongbirdEssentials.com for information on Hummingbirds and more!

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Songbird Essentials' Tips for Attracting Hummingbirds



About Hummingbirds

In the United States, over 16 species of Hummingbirds can be found - 338 species world wide. All species are found only in the Western Hemisphere.

By far the most prevalent species is the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. This Hummingbird is the only one found east of the Rocky Mountains. However, it has adapted well to human development and can be found anywhere there is shelter, space, and food. It is frequently seen in suburban backyards with mature trees and shrubs, in wooded parks, and around farmsteads.



Hummingbird Nest Lined with lichen replacement SE7021



SE6002

Food & Feeders

Growing nectar-filled flowers in your garden is a sure-fire way to attract Hummingbirds. Not only will you supply their natural nectar diet, you will attract another tasty treat for them - mosquitoes. Because Hummingbirds are attracted to the color red, choosing flowers in this color, especially those with tubular blooms, are a great choice.

Additionally, there are plethora of artificial nectar options and even more feeder options to supply your Hummers with the calories they need. Read nectar labels carefully. You will want to choose one that is all natural with no artificial sweeteners or harmful red dyes. Our Songbird Essential nectars are 100% sucrose, and our red nectar gets its color from the Hibiscus plant - perfectly safe for Hummers.

When choosing a feeder you should keep in mind that, as summer comes to a close, Hummers will eat more while they prepare themselves for their long distance migration. Choosing a feeder with interchangeable jar sizes will allow you to offer more nectar during this time without the need to constantly refill.

You will also want to remember that male Hummingbirds can be very territorial. Offering



SE642

Offer your Hummers a place to rest after flying all day. SEHHHUMS

SE624

Food & Feeders Cont'd

multiple feeders can keep him from running other Hummers off as he protects his feeding source.

Because the nectar is a sugar-based liquid, you will want to deter ants. You can do this by attaching a moat to the hanger of your feeder. Filling this moat with water ensures ants have no way of crawling their way to the feeding source.

A great way to get an up close view of your Hummers is by hand feeding them with a nectar-filled ring. Be sure to wear sunglasses while doing so as blinking can scare the Hummer and it won't get close enough to feed.



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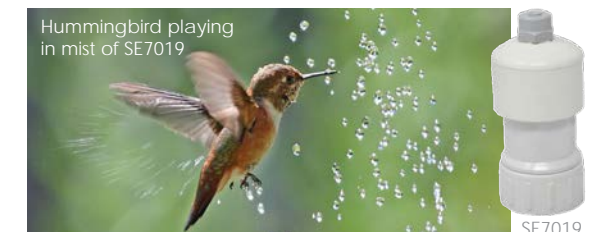
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Nesting

A Hummingbird nest is not much bigger than a quarter. Often it contains just 2-3 eggs that are each about the size of a pea. The nest is typically hard to see as it blends in to the tree branch that it is attached to. It is made of fine animal or plant down and moss or lichens. Though, lichen is becoming harder for them to find. Offering a replacement, natural, material to help in the lining for their nest can be helpful to your Hummers.

Water

Hummingbirds are attracted to running water, especially a fine mist they can zip back and forth through. They don't use water for hydration as they receive plenty to drink in nectar. However, they use water to bath and keep cool in warm temperatures. Consider the small investment in a mister that you can attach to the end of a hose. You will be paid back tenfold as you watch your Hummers flit around in the droplets.



Hummingbird playing in mist of SE7019

SE7019