

4 SPECIES YOU'LL SEE

Broad-tailed Hummingbird

Colorado's signature species. Rose-red throat, distinctive wing trill. Breeds up to 10,500 ft.

BREEDER

Black-chinned Hummingbird

Common on the Western Slope in canyons and riparian areas. Rare on the eastern plains.

BREEDER

Rufous Hummingbird

Fast-moving mid-to-late summer migrant, already heading south by late June.

MIGRANT

Calliope Hummingbird

North America's smallest bird. Less predictable than the other three — a bonus sighting.

MIGRANT

Rarer visitors concentrate in Mesa County (Grand Junction/Palisade), not the Front Range — Colorado's first and most recent Broad-billed Hummingbird records are both from there. Costa's, Anna's, and rare Rivoli's have all been reported too.

ELEVATION DRIVES EVERYTHING

COUNTY	BT RELIABLY COMMON BY
Mesa (Western Slope)	Mid-April
Montezuma (SW canyons)	Late April
Summit (high mtn, 8,000+ft)	Early May
Denver (Front Range)	Mid-May
Yuma (Eastern Plains)	Too scarce to measure

High-elevation Summit arrives as early as Denver — Broad-tailed is a mountain-meadow specialist whose timing tracks snowmelt, not elevation alone.

COLORADO'S RARER VISITORS

Mesa County (Grand Junction/Palisade) is the real hotspot — Colorado's first-ever (2002) and most recent (2019) Broad-billed Hummingbird records are both from there.

Rivoli's Hummingbird (formerly Magnificent) is a genuine, accepted Colorado rarity, typically seen late spring-early fall in the mountains or southern part of the state.

FEEDER CARE BASICS

Nectar ratio	4 parts water : 1 part sugar
Feeder up	Mid-late April (lowlands) – May (high mtn)
Change nectar (above 90°F)	Every 1–2 days
Change nectar (below 70°F)	Every 5–6 days
Watch for	Overnight freezes even in summer at elevation
Pest control	No insecticide — use HummGuard™ tips

TOP NATIVE PLANTS BY REGION

FRONT RANGE & FOOTHILLS

Scarlet Gilia

Rocky Mtn Penstemon

Golden Currant

WESTERN SLOPE & CANYONS

Firecracker Penstemon

Colorado Four O'Clock

HIGH MOUNTAIN MEADOWS

Colorado Blue Columbine

Scarlet Gilia

Scarlet gilia can bloom as late as mid-September in high mountain meadows — fuel for young hummingbirds right before their first migration.

PERFECT LITTLE SANCTUARY® — TOP CO PERFORMERS

- ✓ White Yarrow — *Colorado native*
- ✓ Indian Blanket — *Great Plains native*
- ✓ Black-Eyed Susan — *N. American native, naturalized in CO*

Sow mid-to-late fall — earlier at higher elevations, before mid-October, ahead of persistent snow.

RESOURCES

Injured hummingbird? Colorado Parks & Wildlife's rehabilitator list · Greenwood Wildlife (Longmont) · Colorado Native Bird Care, Lyons (303-823-2326)

Banding: Boulder County Audubon's workshop at the Bouricius cabin, Peaceful Valley — one of only ~100 licensed master hummingbird banders in the US.