

5 SPECIES YOU'LL SEE

Black-chinned Hummingbird

The valley bird — close to half of all reports around Boise.

BREEDER

Rufous Hummingbird

Breeds here, but August is the event: the western population heading south through the Rockies.

BREEDER

Calliope Hummingbird

North America's smallest bird. Strongest in the north and the mountains.

BREEDER

Broad-tailed Hummingbird

High country. Idaho Falls' commonest hummingbird; absent from Boise and the Panhandle.

BREEDER

Anna's Hummingbird

The newcomer — a winter bird. Treasure Valley and Panhandle, not eastern Idaho.

WINTER

▼ MIGRATION WINDOW

REGION	FIRST ARRIVALS	HANG FEEDERS BY
Panhandle (Coeur d'Alene, Sandpoint)	Early April	Late March
Central Mountains (Sun Valley, McCall)	Mid-April	Early April
Treasure Valley (Boise, Nampa)	Mid-late April	Early April
Eastern Idaho (Idaho Falls, Pocatello)	Early May	Mid-April

Listed in arrival order — the **Panhandle is Idaho's earliest region**, not its latest. Peak of the year: **early August**, when the southbound Rufous surge comes through.

♀ FEEDER CARE BASICS

Nectar ratio 4 parts water : 1 part sugar

Red dye Never needed

Honey Never — can cause fatal fungal growth

Change nectar (above 90°F) Every 1–2 days

Change nectar, cool weather Weekly minimum

Pest control No insecticide — use HummGuard™ tips

✿ TOP NATIVE PLANTS

EARLY — FIRST ARRIVALS

Golden Currant

Western Columbine

PEAK SEASON

Scarlet Gilia

Orange Honeysuckle

Firecracker Penstemon

MIDSUMMER

Fireweed

Rocky Mountain Penstemon

Scarlet gilia is the one. Its short tubular flowers suit Calliope's short bill, and Lewis and Clark collected the first specimen along the Lolo Trail. **Avoid** the non-native bush honeysuckles and butterfly bush — both invasive in the Northwest.

✦ PERFECT LITTLE SANCTUARY® IN IDAHO

✓ Scarlet Gilia— *Idaho native*✓ White Yarrow— *Idaho native (western subspecies)*✓ Columbine— *Idaho native*

Best planting window: **October–November**, once soil cools but before hard freeze. The other nine perform well here but came from elsewhere.

✿ IDAHO'S SECOND SEASON

Anna's Hummingbirds now winter in Idaho. First recorded in 1976, still fewer than ten a year in 2015 — Boise State researchers now band roughly **200 each winter**, and confirmed the first Idaho nest in Boise in 2020.

One banded bird near New Meadows survived 45 days that never rose above freezing. If one finds your feeder, keep it thawed — the critical window is the half hour *before* sunrise.