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THE TEXAS



# HUMMER

SPRING 1996

A NEWSLETTER FOR TEXAS HUMMINGBIRD ROUNDUP PARTICIPANTS

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## Little Texas Rednecks

*They stampede into town  
in the spring and the fall.*

*Nature drives them,  
with its beck and call.*

*They tumble, dive and  
plummet with the  
greatest of ease,  
these daring young  
cow-pokes without a  
flying trapeze.*

*Their wings buzz like a  
bee if you sashay up close,  
but a sting from the tail's  
not the usual dose.*

*The dose is of pleasure  
to one's naked eye,  
the little Texas Rednecks  
that ride out of the sky.*

*They fight like wild  
mustangs, but don't  
be too sure.*

*It's sweet Texas nectar  
they're guarding,  
with it's life-giving lure.*

*Ruby-throated Hummers  
ride in twice a year,  
then it's, "Yahoo, Adios!"  
until roundup next year.*

- by Greg Owen  
1995 Roundup Participant

## Y THANK YOU

Yahoo! The 1995 Texas Hummingbird Roundup has been a whopping success! A great big Texas "Thanks, Y'all!" to all the 1995 participants. Because of you, the second year of the survey has revealed many exciting things. We have seen a number of hummingbirds wintering in our state (see "Winter Wonders," pg. 4, and "Aztec Gold," pg. 3), discovered what types of creatures also visit our hummingbird feeders (see "Pesky Poachers," pg. 7), and found out more about hummingbirds that nest in Texas (see "Nesting Niches," pg. 6). All these revelations were possible because of your watchful eyes and carefully taken notes.

A very special thank you goes to all those participants who sent in pictures and videos of their hummingbirds and habitat. This documentation is very helpful in identifying species and establishing county records. They are also a lot of fun to look through! Thank you also to those who took the time to write down notes of their observations. These were truly helpful in learning more about hummingbird habits and behavior. We included many of these notes. They were a joy to read, and a joy to be shared.

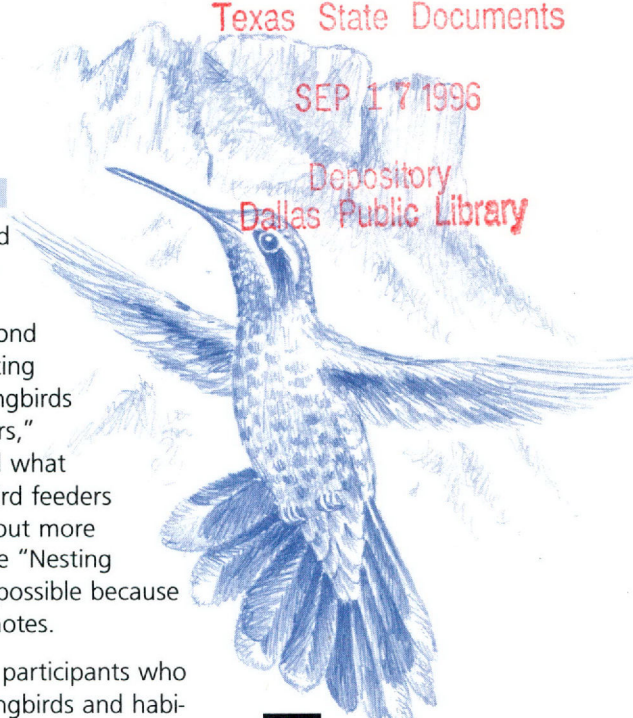
**Total registrations for 1994 - 1220**

**Total participants returning survey forms for 1994 - 245**

**Total registrations for 1995 - 1267**

**Total participants returning survey forms for 1995 - 388**

As you can see, the Roundup is growing every year. Hummingbirds are everywhere in our state, stopping at lush gardens, in rolling meadows and at our feeders. We hope you have a great time watching them this year, and we encourage everyone to keep records of your observations as much as you can. Tell your friends and relatives about the Roundup, especially those in the counties with no participants (see map). And most of all, please send in your **1996 Roundup Surveys** after Christmas.



## T MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Hummingbird Roundup survey is to improve the conservation of hummingbirds by gathering information about their distribution and providing information to the public. The survey encourages Texans to maintain natural habitat for the birds, properly care for hummingbird feeders and record sightings. Your observations further our knowledge of the hummingbirds of Texas, guide new research efforts, and help the Nongame and Urban Program in its mission to keep these tiny visitors returning each year.

To sign up for the Hummingbird Roundup, please send a \$6 donation with your name, address, county and telephone number to:  
**Hummingbird Roundup**  
Texas Parks & Wildlife  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744







## HUMMINGBIRD GARDENS

One of the most important and reliable ways of attracting hummingbirds to your area is to plant a "hummingbird garden," full of nectar-rich and vibrantly-colored flowers. The typical hummingbird flower is red and tube-shaped, has very little scent, and often opens downward. Our Hummingbird Roundup participants eagerly shared their opinions as to which flowers were the best at attracting hummingbirds.

### FAVORITES IN ORDER

#### First place champions:

Salvia (*Salvia coccinea*, *S. splendens*, *Salvia* spp.), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), Lantana (*Lantana horrida*, *L. camara*)

#### Second place favorites:

Hibiscus (*Hibiscus* spp.), Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*, *M. drummondii*), Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*), Morning Glory (*Ipomea* spp.), Shrimp Plant (*Justica brandegeana*), Four-o-Clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*), Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja californica*, *C. indivisa*)

#### Third place contenders:

Horse Mint (*Monarda citriodora*), Scarlet Bush (*Hamelia* spp.), Mexican Sunflower, Cypress Vine (*Ipomea quamoclit*), Rocky Mountain Sage, Cenizo/Purple Sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*), various Roses (*Rosa* spp.), Red Penstemon (*Penstemon triflorus*, *P. labrosus*), Red Penta (*Pentas lanceolata*)

The second critical element in a hummingbird garden, after nectar-rich flowers, is water. All living things must have water to survive, and Hummingbird Roundup participants were generous in providing it. The most prevalent water source provided was the bird bath. Two hundred seventy-nine participants provided water for their avian visitors, and 75% of those participants provided that water via a bird bath or a fountain. However, only 20% of those participants saw hummingbirds actually use the bath. Sixteen percent of the water-providing participants generally provided water with a sprinkler, and 48 participants saw hummingbirds using the sprinkler water for bathing or drinking. Nine percent of the participants provided a mister for their hummer guests, and 29% of those participants reported that they saw hummingbirds used their misters. It seems that the key for hummingbird water use is to provide a moving source of water, such as from a dripping faucet, a fountain, a sprinkler or a mister.



One participant reported that she saw a hummingbird drinking and bathing in water dripping from her air-conditioner condenser! Several others reported that they saw hummers bathing in drops of mist or dew collected on leaves. What little forest sprites!



## UNUSUAL OBSERVATION

"The most exciting visitor has been a partially albino hummingbird. It has been here four days now. I usually see it only once a day, near the noon hour. It is snow white underneath, on its head and upper back. Its wings are pale gray. Its tail is white but surprisingly has the black spots typical of most hummingbirds. Its lower back has an area of very pale bluish green, visible only in the right light... It is really striking feeding on the red salvia."

Frances Williams,  
Midland County

## LIVING JEWELS

Hummingbirds are often called "Living Jewels" because of the beautiful, radiant appearance of their feathers. Feather color is either the result of pigmentation or structure of the feather. The rusty hues of Allen's and Rufous hummingbirds are the result of pigmentation, which is produced when white light encounters a pigmented surface. The pigment either reflects or absorbs the various wavelengths of light. Wavelengths which are absorbed are no longer visible to the human eye, while the wavelengths that are reflected to receptor cells in the eyes are visible.

The bright, iridescent colors of a hummingbird's back and gorget (throat patch) are tinted

through structural color. Structural color occurs when the components, or colors, of white light are modified by the structure of the feather. If we were to peel open a magnified hummingbird feather, we would see an elaborate layering of tiny structures called platelets. These platelets look something like flattened balloons. The "plastic" of the balloons is a dark layer of a substance called melanin. The rainbow of different hummingbird colors is caused by variations in the thickness of the melanin films and the air spaces between them. When viewed from the correct angle, certain wavelength frequencies shine through and bounce off of the melanin, then synchronize and strengthen just like waves of

water bouncing off a beach. When this happens, the colors magnify and brighten to appear to glow with the brilliance of a hundred rubies or emeralds or sapphires.

The back feathers of the hummingbird have curved platelets, so that the iridescent color can be seen from many angles. However, the platelets of the hummingbird's gorget are flat and reflect light in only one direction. Therefore, the sun must be directly behind the observer and in front of the hummer in order for the observer to see the iridescent hues. If the observer and the sun are not at the correct angles, the gorget color will appear gray or black.



**OVERWINTERING OBSERVATION**

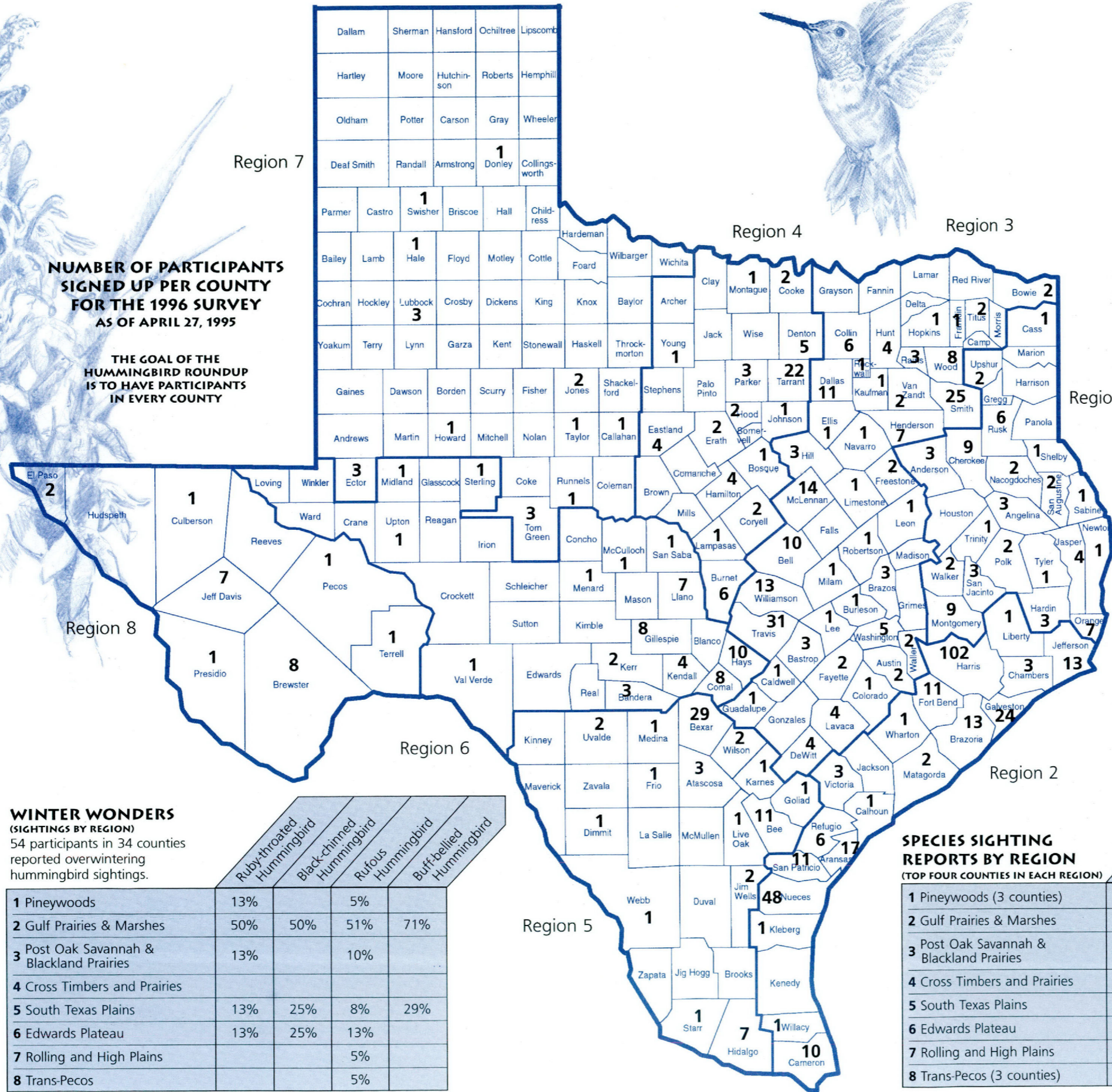
"For the fourth winter in a row, I have had a Rufous Hummingbird spend the winter here, so I have kept one feeder going all year. The first year when I called the local birding expert in San Marcos, he said the only danger was if the syrup froze... so I placed a heating pad around the bottle and if it does get cold, I plug it in with the thermostat on low. It does not make any difference to them what color the heating pad is; plaid or white. I thought that it was a lone bird that had gotten mixed up and when he died, the winter visitation would stop... but this year I noticed that one was displaying while another was feeding at the feeder so I know there are at least two that overwintered this year."  
 - Alyne Randolph-Foster, Hays Co.

**Counties with the most overwintering sightings:**

- Pineywoods, Region 1  
Montgomery - 2
- Gulf Prairies & Marshes, Region 2  
Cameron - 4, Harris - 10, Nueces - 2, Victoria - 2
- Post Oak Savannah & Blackland Prairies, Region 3  
Travis - 3
- South Texas Plains, Region 5  
Bexar - 2
- Edwards Plateau, Region 6  
Hays - 2, Kendall - 3

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS SIGNED UP PER COUNTY FOR THE 1996 SURVEY AS OF APRIL 27, 1995**

**THE GOAL OF THE HUMMINGBIRD ROUNDUP IS TO HAVE PARTICIPANTS IN EVERY COUNTY**



**WINTER WONDERS (SIGHTINGS BY REGION)**

54 participants in 34 counties reported overwintering hummingbird sightings.

	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Rufous Hummingbird	Buff-bellied Hummingbird
1 Pineywoods	13%	5%		
2 Gulf Prairies & Marshes	50%	50%	51%	71%
3 Post Oak Savannah & Blackland Prairies	13%	10%		
4 Cross Timbers and Prairies				
5 South Texas Plains	13%	25%	8%	29%
6 Edwards Plateau	13%	25%	13%	
7 Rolling and High Plains			5%	
8 Trans-Pecos			5%	

**SPECIES SIGHTING REPORTS BY REGION (TOP FOUR COUNTIES IN EACH REGION)**

	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Rufous Hummingbird	Buff-bellied Hummingbird
1 Pineywoods (3 counties)	715	66		
2 Gulf Prairies & Marshes	7294	174	380	66
3 Post Oak Savannah & Blackland Prairies	3365	1999	55	54
4 Cross Timbers and Prairies	676	1273	8	
5 South Texas Plains	1334	1712	460	622
6 Edwards Plateau	837	3307	54	12
7 Rolling and High Plains	85	643	65	
8 Trans-Pecos (3 counties)	2	1701	207	

**NOTES FROM THE HUMMER LOVERS**

"On January 6, I saw a hummer in the yard after a freezing night. All the blooming plants were dead so I immediately boiled some sugar water... and put up two feeders right then. He is still in the yard using the feeders today (the 10th). The exciting part for me is that he is a Rufous hummer and I have never had any hummers other than Ruby-throats all the years I have been feeding them."  
 - Susan Douglas, Harris Co.

"This was my first year to participate in the Hummingbird Roundup. I can honestly say it has truly been a labor of love. It has not only been fun, but I've also learned so much. Now my neighbors come to me with questions and are also enjoying these birds."  
 - Sharon Dadd, Fort Bend Co.

"We lost many of our birds over the years due to their habit of defending the feeder. They would confuse the reflection of our multiple glass patio doors with the open sky, fly into them, and become injured... To eliminate this, we stuck multi-colored half inch foil stars on the doors to give the birds a sense of this obstacle. To my knowledge, we've not lost a bird since."  
 - Ron Stanberry, Burnet Co.

"... I saw my first Black-chinned hummer in the last part of June. They do have a very pretty purple line under their chin. They were so hungry that I could hold my feeder in my hand while they feed, and that's how I got a good look at them. Then, on August 20th, I saw my first Rufous... and also my Ruby-throats are back. Talk about a fight going on in my backyard. I sure have one with the Black-chin, Rufous, and Ruby-throat trying to keep all of the other hummers away from the feeders. It is something else. They are truly amazing to watch."  
 - Cheryl Lykins, Parker Co.

"On the morning of 16 June 1995, I observed hummingbird copulation up close, from a distance of about 2 meters (6-8 feet). A Black-chinned male had been flying in his usual pattern that is variously described as a "U" or an arc. I prefer to describe it as a partial circle, corresponding to clock face from two o'clock to ten o'clock. The male had made this pattern three or four times when a female buzzed in at three o'clock. Breast to breast and vent to vent, they were coupled until they reached the nine o'clock position where she buzzed out just as quickly as she had buzzed in. I estimate the entire event took less than two seconds. I watched about 15 minutes longer, but there was no repeat performance. This observation indicates that not only is this peculiar flight pattern of the male related to courtship but that it serves as the actual vehicle for copulation."  
 - Melvin Walker La Follette, Presidio Co.

"I do have a problem keeping hummers out of my garage from time to time. When one does get in there I put one of my feeders over a doorway and wait till it comes down to drink and fly back out. Then I remove the feeder."  
 - Connie Knobloch, Guadalupe Co.



## NESTING NICHES

Not only does Texas boast records of all 17 of the North American species of hummingbirds, we also have six hummingbird species that have nested in our state! Twenty-seven participants actually found one of these teeny nests. Most (92%) of the nests were found in trees, and 54% were at a height of between 6 and 10 feet. Nests were also found in

hackberry bushes, mulberry bushes and a Mexican fire bush. Twenty-six percent of the participants who saw a nest also saw one or two eggs in the nest. Thirteen participants found fledglings in their yards or at their feeders this year. Also, three participants reported that the same nest was used in a second nesting attempt. Way to go Hatchery Hunters!

### NESTING OBSERVATION



*"In 1994 my daughter had a hummer nest on a wind chime hanging on her porch. Two eggs laid. One hatched. She filmed the mother feeding the baby, but sadly missed when it fledged."*

*Peggy Robbins, Denton County*

## HUMMINGBIRD SCOUTS

All of us eagerly await spring and that flash of color we hope to discover for the year. Some participants were lucky enough to see those lovely hummers almost all year. The first species participants reported were Rufous Hummingbirds in January. Most probably, our watchers were seeing overwintering birds. A few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and one each of Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Anna's, and Buff-bellied hummingbirds were seen in January. A few more hummingbirds were seen in February, but the big rush of the spring migration came in March. From March 1 through March 19, an even number of mostly Black-chinned and Ruby-throated hummingbirds were spotted by participants, and through the last half of March, even more of these species arrived. The first arrivals of the spring migration tapered off through April, and by May only a handful of Black-chinned and Ruby-throated hummingbirds were observed. Some of our hummingbird watchers did not see their first hummers until the much-anticipated fall migration. In

August, Black-chinned and Ruby-throated hummingbirds were being seen for the first time. By September, most participants had already seen their first hummers of the season. However, a couple of Ruby-throated hummers surprised participants by their sudden, although rather late, appearance. By October, no new hummingbirds showed up, and by early November many participants were taking down their feeders.

### TOP 4 SPECIES FIRST SEEN

	Rufous Hummingbird	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Buff-bellied Hummingbird
January	19	3	1	1
February	2	3		
March 1-19		28	24	
March 20-31		56	32	1
April	1	57	18	
May		14	2	1
June	1	3	2	1
July	2	29	1	
August		20	4	
September		2		
October				

## NESTING NICHES

Most hummingbird species are promiscuous, in that males mate with several females in one breeding season. Since males have no responsibility for the incubation and rearing of their chicks, they can afford to invest much energy in attracting mates and defending a territory. To attract females, males engage in elaborate and highly visible courtship displays and are fabulously colored. The aerial flights consist of plunging dives, broad swoops, and sounds including vocalizations and pops or buzzes caused by the rushing of air over specially adapted feathers. Females do not generally invest energy to defend a territory while incubating eggs or caring for young, but instead pilfer nectar and insects from other hummingbirds' territories. She will, however, vigorously defend her nest from intruders of any size.

The female constructs her nest from spider silk, plant down, animal fur, soft grass, and moss, and generally decorates it with bits of lichen, bud scales, or bark. Nests often go undetected because they resemble knots in wood. Each species constructs a distinctive nest, but most nests are about 2 inches in diameter and 1 inch deep. The nests are able to stretch to accommodate the growth of the chicks. Hummingbirds usually lay 2 eggs, which resemble navy beans in size, shape, and color. The eggs are incubated for 15 to 20 days, and chicks fledge at about 3 weeks. They are fed by the mother for 2 to 4 additional weeks. The markings of the young resemble those of adult females, except that the fledglings have much shorter tails. They retain their female-like plumage until their first nuptial molt, which occurs the first spring following their hatching date.



### FEEDING OBSERVATION



*"The most unusual occurrence I observed was between two hummers. When one was guarding a feeder from other birds, the other hummer would hide behind a hanging plant.*

*When the hummer guarding the feeder would chase another hummer away, the one hiding would sneak to the feeder."*

*Kathy Sosa, Galveston County*



## LOOKING FOR AZTEC GOLD

**J**ust when old man winter puts on his cold gray coat and everything in your once-beautiful garden appears to be lifeless – then it happens! Suddenly you see something moving, a flash of burnt gold, a small flying body probing remaining flower parts, searching earnestly for bugs and nectar. You're amazed and awe-struck at this wonder – your first winter hummer! And, what a beauty he is. "Mr. Rufous" with his aztec gold scarf in your backyard. Frantically you search your cabinets for the feeder (or clean the one you left outside) and begin the ritual that may last a few days or a few months. Hopefully there are still a few nectaring flowers in your garden, water that is not frozen and on warmer days a few small flying insects. With a little bit of good luck and perseverance, he'll stick around and you'll enjoy your winter a lot more.

Many lucky Texans are reporting this experience in the Hummingbird Roundup. Both 1994-95 and 1995-96 participants reported good numbers of overwintering birds. Certain parts of our state have more reports than others, especially in coastal South Texas, the upper Texas Coast, and the western Trans-Pecos areas. An overwhelming majority of those sightings were Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*), along with scattered numbers of Ruby-throated, Buff-bellied, and Black-chinned hummingbirds (see "Winter Wonders," pg. 4).

Male Rufous Hummingbirds can be identified by their shiny golden-copper gorget, rufous (red-brown) underparts, and dark-tipped rufous tail. They are distinguished from the very similar Allen's Hummingbird by the coloring of the back feathers. The Rufous has an all rufous back which sometimes is speckled with green, while the Allen's hummer has an all green back. The Rufous' northward migration generally occurs in spring from February through May and

the migration route for this tiny bird is from Southern Mexico all the way through the western United States and Canada. The Rufous' breeding range is the most northern of all the hummingbird species, and stretches from northern California, through Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia, and all the way up into southern Alaska. In fact, the Rufous Hummingbird has the longest migration route of all our hummingbirds. The route stretches over an amazing 2500 miles!

These hummers are also the most common vagrant hummingbird species occurring east of the Mississippi. They have been spotted from Nova Scotia to the tip of Florida, and also in our state of Texas. Most of our Texas sightings have occurred during the months of November through December, which is just after the Rufous' normal fall migration (from late June through October). It is speculated that these vagrants might be birds that had been blown off course, or that have simply drifted into the eastern states during their southern migration.

Interestingly, the Rufous Hummingbird is one of the most aggressive of our hummingbirds. It readily ousts Black-chinned and Ruby-throated hummingbirds from their feeding territories. This may be an adaptation which allows the Rufous to migrate extraordinarily long distances, then drop to and quickly claim a nectar-rich territory. There, it can fuel-up for several days before the next long and energy-draining journey or spend the winter which it sometimes does.

Having a Rufous Hummingbird visit your garden or feeder during the winter is certainly a real treat. Leaving up winter feeders will not prevent the little vagrants from migrating on, but may provide life-saving nutrients to weak, off-course, or late-migrating hummingbirds. We encourage participants to look for and report their winter sightings.

## OVERWINTERING OBSERVATION



*"As a result of leaving my feeders through the winter, I have added three new hummingbirds to my life list!"*

*Barbara Kelley, Harris County*

### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Texans know that everything is bigger (and better!) in Texas! Seventeen species of hummingbirds either winter or nest in North America, and over the years Texas has hosted all seventeen of these beautiful species. Below are sightings from the 1995 Texas Hummingbird Roundup participants. Sightings are confirmed by members of our Texas Hummingbird Network as noted.

#### Calliope:

Pam Gerritson, Travis Co., July 29, 30  
Raydell Klett, Menard Co., July 17, 18, 19, 26 and 27, 1995, confirmed with photographs

#### Anna's:

Michael and Cheryl McGehee, Uvalde Co., Dec. 23, 1995-  
Jan. 6, 1996, confirmed with photographs  
Jan Wimberly, Upton Co.  
Joan Holt, Nueces Co.

#### Blue-throated:

Glenn Swartz, Nueces Co., Nov. 30, 1995, Nov. 19 through  
Dec. 1, 1995, confirmed by Greg Lasley  
Sean Sutherland, Sandra Holland, Bexar Co., Nov. 1995,  
confirmed by San Antonio Audubon Society

#### Green Violet-ear:

F. H. Pape, Gillespie Co., May through Sept. 1995  
Glen Swartz, Nueces Co., June 11-30, 1995

#### Broad-tailed:

Sam Strickland, Galveston Co., Feb. 11 through Feb. 22, 1995  
Rubert and LaRue Ferrell, Dallas Co.  
Jane Kemmerer, Aransas Co.  
Cynthia Fava, Ellis Co.  
Glen Swartz, Nueces Co., Mar. 5-26, Oct. 22-29, Nov. 1-Dec. 1,  
1995

### OTHER SIGHTINGS AROUND TEXAS

We also learned about these sightings around the state from observers who were not part of our Roundup.

#### Anna's:

Corpus Christi, Oct. 23, 1995  
Rockport, Nov. 14, 1995  
Lamar Peninsula, Aransas Co., Nov. 18, 1995  
Choke Canyon State Park, Live Oak Co., Nov. 19, 1995

#### Buff-bellied:

George Beringer, Guadalupe Co., Apr. 30 and May 1, 1994,  
confirmed

#### Calliope:

Corpus Christi, Nov. 1, 1995

#### Costa's:

David and Bertha Ogle, El Paso Co., Dec. 1995

#### Broad-tailed:

Corpus Christi, Oct. 5, 1995  
Calallen, Oct. 1-30, 9, 26, 31, 1995  
Lamar Peninsula, Aransas Co., Nov. 18, 1995



## PESKY POACHERS

It seems like our hummingbirds aren't the only creatures benefiting from hummingbird feeders. Hummingbird Roundup participants reported a plethora of uninvited guests sucking feeder nectar and generally being a hummingbird nuisance. In order of peskiness, wasps, ants and bees were most often reported. House sparrows were the second most common trespassers, with orioles and Tufted Titmice following close behind. Other interlopers included butterflies, green anoles (lizards), Chickadees, spiders and bats. One of the more lethal pests was the praying mantis, which has been known to capture young or weak hummingbirds. Since these predators also capture harmful garden insects, it is best simply to move them from your feeder to another part of your garden.

## HUMMER FOE OBSERVATION



*"I have a feeder at my kitchen window, and she [a Black-chinned hummer] would be there every morning waiting for me to open the mini-blind and say something to her. She would "talk" to me when the feeder was low or when the taste was not to suit her. One morning she was "talking" more than usual and would fly up to the feeder, but would not perch. She had a habit of looking in the window to see what was going on in the kitchen, hovering for several seconds as I would talk to her. That morning she hovered longer than usual and was much more vocal. I went outside to the feeder and found a large house spider that overnight had built a web on part of the feeder. After disposing of the spider and web, Bandit returned to her normal chatter and would perch to drink from the feeder. I was really sorry to see her leave this fall and I hope she can find her way back next spring."*

Deborah Moseley, Ector County

## TIPS ON KEEPING YOUR HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER CLEAN

- 1) Since our hot Texas sun can cause temperatures to soar into the 90's and 100's, it is important to clean feeders thoroughly every 2 to 3 days. Nectar that is not removed periodically will ferment. No one wants to gulp down sour sweets!
- 2) The Texas Hummingbird Roundup recommends cleaning feeders with a diluted solution of hot water and vinegar. If hot water and bleach are used, make sure the solution is very diluted, and that all parts of the feeder are rinsed thoroughly. For extra tough cleaning, add a little baking soda to the vinegar solution and scrub. Watch out, though... baking soda and vinegar fizzle when combined!
- 3) Use a bottle brush or an old toothbrush to clean feeder and ports. Glass bottle feeders are sterilized easily in the dishwasher. After hanging the feeder, wiping the ports with a damp cloth will help deter competing flying insects.
- 4) Again, be sure to rinse out feeders thoroughly!

## BOOKS ON BIRD IDENTIFICATION

The following are the bird identification guides our participants found most helpful for identifying and learning more about hummingbirds:

**The Hummingbird Wheel**  
(Texas Parks and Wildlife, illustrations by John O'Neill)

**Field Guide to the Birds of North America** (National Geographic Society. 1987. 2nd Edition)

**Guide to Field Identification: Birds in North America**  
(Golden Guide)

**A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas and Adjacent States**  
(Peterson, R.T. 1988).

**The Hummingbird Book: The Complete Guide to Attracting, Identifying and Enjoying Hummingbirds** (Stokes, D. and L. Stokes. 1989).

## WHEEL HONORED

The Hummingbird Wheel recently received honors from the Austin Chapter of the American Advertising Federation. The Silver "Addy Award" was earned in the category of Public Service through Direct Marketing, and we are all very proud. Project coordinator for the wheel is Madge Lindsay, concept coordinator is Jim Peterson, illustrator is John P. O'Neill and graphics artist is Linda Wells. Special thanks go to Kari Sutton who assisted with wheel production.

## RED FOOD COLORING

Many hummingbird watchers ask whether they should add red food coloring to their nectar solutions. The Texas Hummingbird Roundup does not recommend the use of food coloring or dye in your hummingbird nectar solution. The Food and Drug Administration recalled Red Dye #2 in 1975 when it was discovered to be unsafe for human consumption. The red dye that is currently available has been certified safe for humans, but has not been tested on hummingbirds. To attract hummers without using red dye, buy feeders with red on them (most already do), paint the outside of the feeder bottle red, or attach ribbons or flagging tape to feeders.

## The Hummingbird Wheel

is a beautiful 10" full-color identification wheel that will help you recognize the hummingbird species found in Texas and North America. The front of the wheel has color illustrations and descriptions of 16 North American hummers. The back contains more information on other hummer species, a nectar recipe, and fun hummingbird facts. Your purchase of the wheel will help fund research, habitat conservation, and management for these enchanting birds. The wheel is \$11.95 and can be ordered by sending a check to:

The Hummingbird Wheel  
TPWD Nongame and Urban Program  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744

or call the TPWD catalogue at 1-800-786-8644  
Item no. 1034

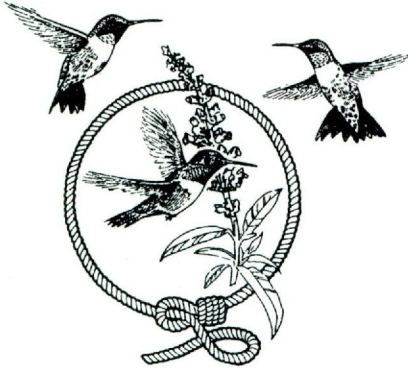
All catalogue orders add shipping charges.





## 1994, 1995, 1996 PARTICIPANTS

The following participants have been with the Texas Hummingbird Roundup for all 3 years.



Mrs. C. Pernel Aars  
Bosque County

John and Ann Appleton  
Howard County

Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Arnold  
San Patricio County

Colonel Lola Ball  
Kendall County

Jean and Billie Barcus  
Llano County

Janelle Betts  
Hunt County

Marie Blum  
Harris County

Marilyn Brewer  
Bell County

Donna Burrows  
Harris County

David Buzan  
Travis County

Ken and Mary Dollar  
Chambers County

Dr. and Mrs. Fred Elston  
Gray County

Willis and Judy Frink  
Dallas County

Margie Fullen  
Williamson County

Pam Gerritsen  
Travis County

Bill and Vicki George  
Bandera County

Gerry W. Green  
Victoria County

Carolyn Gullede  
Burnet County

John M. Hardage  
Williamson County

L. B. and Muffet Harden  
Bastrop County

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### HUMMER/BIRD CELEBRATION

The Texas Hummingbird Roundup invites Roundup participants, their friends and family to attend the

**7th Annual HUMMER/BIRD Celebration in Rockport - Fulton, Texas, on September 12-15, 1996.**

The HUMMER/BIRD Celebration is an annual event held each September in the charming and friendly coastal towns of Rockport and Fulton. Its purpose is to celebrate the spectacular fall migration of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird through the area and to expand one's knowledge of all birds. Field trips and programs by experts ranging from topics on hummingbirds, cranes, bird flight, bird migration, a year in a naturalist's backyard, photography, learning to bird, planting for and feeding birds and much more will be offered. Also you can shop 'til your heart is content for all kinds of Hummingbird books, art, and other hummer fancies. For more information, contact the Rockport/Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce at 1(800)242-0071 or 1(512)729-6445.



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**Contributors:**

Director, Nongame & Urban Program,  
John Herron  
Outreach and Promotions  
Program Leader, Madge Lindsay  
Hummingbird Roundup  
Project Coordinator, Kelly Conrad Bender

Texas Partners In Flight Coordinator, Cecilia Riley  
Technical Program Coordinator, Glenn Boydston;  
Graphics Supervisor, Pris Martin  
Design/Production, Linda Wells/Suzanne Davis  
Illustrations, Rob Fleming/Clemente Guzman

**TEXAS  
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4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744  
1-800-792-1112

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