Creating Hummingbird Habitats

Or

“How Come I Ain’t Got No Hummin’birds?”

By Mark Klym
Coordinator – Texas Hummingbird Roundup
The Abilene Area Can Enjoy Hummingbird Diversity!

- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird
Less Frequent Summer and Fall Guests

- White-eared Hummingbird
- Blue-throated Hummingbird
- Lucifer Hummingbird
- Broad-billed Hummingbird
Less Frequent Fall and Winter Hummingbirds

- Anna’s Hummingbird
- Costa’s Hummingbird
- Calliope Hummingbird
- Allen’s Hummingbird

Photo by Josh Rose
So, What Is The Key To Hummingbird Success?

Help!
Three Important Words

- Habitat
- Habitat
- Habitat
Food

- Feeders should be used as a supplement to a healthy hummingbird garden
  - Make it easier to manage the birds
  - Create easy photography options
  - Provide great educational opportunities
The Garden

- Provides more needs for the birds
- Allows you greater liberty!
Keys to Effective Hummingbird Food

- Flower shape
- Orientation
- Flower color
- IS IT APROPRIATE?
Suggested Hummingbird Food Plants – Rolling Plains

- Desert Willow
- Sages
  - Autumn sage
  - Mealy sage
- Red Yucca
- Trumpet Creeper
When Using Exotic Plants

- Please be careful.
Hummingbirds Also Eat

- Insects
Shelter

- Is often a stronger determining factor than food.
Hummingbirds Are

- Habitat type specific
  - Ruby-throated Hummingbirds – trees
  - Black-chinned Hummingbird – brush and trees
  - Rufous Hummingbird – trees and brush
  - Anna’s Hummingbird - brush
In Developing Shelter

- Think of the plant and natural communities
- Native, Native, Native
- Develop thickets and clusters
Shelter Suggestions

- **Tall trees**
  - Pecan, sugarberry, black willow, cottonwood

- **Short trees**
  - Mountain mahogany, Texas mulberry, Texas persimmon, little walnut

- **Shrubs**
  - Cenizo, feather dalea, fourwing saltbush, Texas honeysuckle
Water

- Very important for all wildlife – hummingbirds are no exception
- Safe, reliable, clean, useable
Water

- **Safe**
  - Be careful of tall ground cover close by
  - Allow the birds shelter close, but not too close
- **Reliable**
  - Should be there when they need it
- **Clean**
  - Moving
  - Keep it changed
- **Useable**
  - No harsh chemicals
  - Watch the slope
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