

Hummingbird identification chart

Six regional examples | United States: eastern and western species compared | Online Field Guide

Adult males shown. Throat colors change with the light; location narrows possibilities but is not proof.

1. Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Archilochus colubris



Male: red throat, black chin line and green back

Adult male in flight; ruby throat lit

2. Black-chinned Hummingbird

Archilochus alexandri



Male: black throat with a violet lower edge

Male; dark throat at this angle

3. Anna's Hummingbird

Calypte anna



Male: rose-red crown and throat

Adult male; crown and throat lit

4. Rufous Hummingbird

Selasphorus rufus



Male: rusty body and orange-red throat

Adult male; front view

5. Allen's Hummingbird

Selasphorus sasin

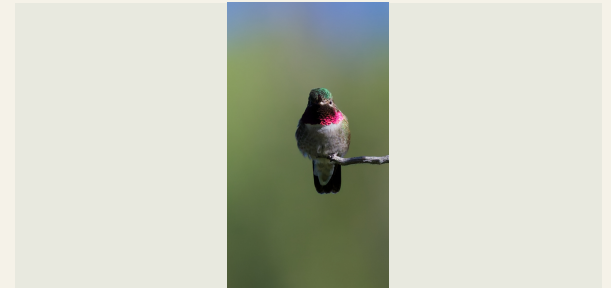


Male: green back, rusty sides, orange-red throat

Adult male; side view

6. Broad-tailed Hummingbird

Selasphorus platycercus



Male: rose throat, green back and pale belly

Adult male; throat visible

1. Louise Woodrich; CC BY 4.0.

2. Craig Martin

3. Dario Taraborelli

4. highsinger; CC BY 4.0.

5. Adam Jackson

6. Daughter Dad; CC BY 4.0.

Comparison notes and photo credits

Hummingbird chart companion | Original layout and wording by Online Field Guide

Hummingbird	Habitat clue	Identification level	Seasonal occurrence
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Eastern woods, gardens and edges	Species candidate	Eastern breeder, spring through fall
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Western river corridors, gardens and woodland	Species candidate	Western breeder, spring through fall
Anna's Hummingbird	Pacific gardens, scrub and open woodland	Species candidate	Year-round in much of Pacific range
Rufous Hummingbird	Western forests, gardens and migration flowers	Species candidate	Western spring/fall migrant and summer breeder
Allen's Hummingbird	Coastal California/Oregon; southern California gardens	Source-labelled lookalike	Coastal breeder; some southern residents year-round
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Western mountain meadows and open woods	Species candidate	Mainly spring through summer in mountain West

The season column describes the main US occurrence, with the region stated in habitat. Vagrants and changing local winter patterns can fall outside these broad descriptions.

Photo credits and original file links

- 1. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** *Archilochus colubris* - iNaturalist photo 247285463, by Louise Woodrich. CC BY 4.0.
- 2. **Black-chinned Hummingbird:** *Archilochus alexandri* - iNaturalist photo 371300405, by Craig Martin.
- 3. **Anna's Hummingbird:** *Calypte anna* - iNaturalist photo 117315866, by Dario Taraborelli.
- 4. **Rufous Hummingbird:** *Selasphorus rufus* - iNaturalist photo 407913026, by highsinger. CC BY 4.0.
- 5. **Allen's Hummingbird:** *Selasphorus sasin* - iNaturalist photo 460503487, by Adam Jackson.
- 6. **Broad-tailed Hummingbird:** *Selasphorus platycercus* - iNaturalist photo 690946570, by Daughter Dad. CC BY 4.0.

Identification references: Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Black-chinned Hummingbird; Anna's Hummingbird; Rufous Hummingbird; Allen's Hummingbird; Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

This chart compares regional examples; it is not a complete species key.