

BOGUS BASIN HUMMINGBIRD GUIDE

While recreating up at Bogus, you might have noticed tiny birds zipping around. If so, there is a good chance it is a hummingbird! Use this guide to help you figure out what species of hummingbird you're seeing.



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS

There are five species of hummingbird in Idaho. They are very important pollinators, as they help exchange pollen from different plants while eating. Nectar is a crucial part of their diet as it gives them the quick energy they need to help sustain their high metabolism. Because there are tons of wildflowers up at Bogus Basin, hummingbirds love it up here!



HUMMINGBIRD HABITAT

At Bogus, some of the best spots to find hummingbirds include around the Nordic Lodge trails, Brewer's Byway, and Deer Point Trail.

Some of their favorite wildflowers here include Penstemon, Scarlet Gilia, Western Columbine, and Rocky Mountain Paintbrush (all pictured below)



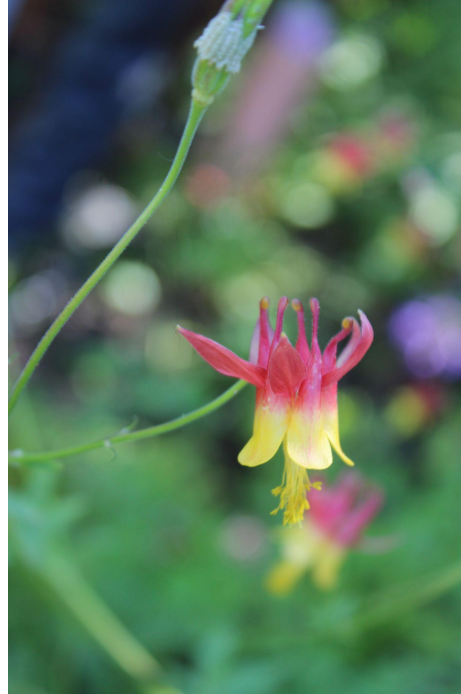


Scarlet Gilia



Penstemon

Western Columbine



**Rocky Mountain
Paintbrush**



CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD

Female/Immature male



© Jesse Amesbury/Macaulay Library

Male



© Marya Moosman/Macaulay Library

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

- **Females:** Green head and back, white chest, and buffy sides, proportionately short bill
- **Males:** Metallic green back, purplish-red stripes on white gorget, elongated throat feathers
- The world's smallest migrating bird!
- **Size and Shape:** short tail, wings, bill, and a hunched posture
- **Behavior:** low-ground foragers, males perform a u-shape display and can flare their throat feathers
- **Habitat:** alpine meadows, montane clearings, shrubby areas, post-fire/ logging recovering forests



BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD

Female/Immature Male



© Mason Maron/Macaulay Library

Male



© Mike Steward/Macaulay Library

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

- **Females:** green back, grayish chest, throat, and sides, proportionately long bill
- **Males:** green back, black chin, black and violet gorget
- Very common in Idaho at low elevations and the main hummingbird species to breed in the Treasure Valley
- **Size and Shape:** larger than Calliope/smaller than Anna's, straight-billed, slender
- **Behavior:** pump tail during hovering, males perform “pendulum” displays
- **Habitat:** habitat generalist so can be found from lowland deserts and mountainous forests to extremely urbanized areas



RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Female/Immature male



© Ian Routley/Macaulay Library

Male



© Spencer Follett/Macaulay Library

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

- **Females:** green back with rufous sides and tail, can have a small gorget patch
- **Males:** bright orange chest and back, iridescent flame-colored gorget
- **Size and Shape:** stocky, large headed, straight bill, with a tapered-tail, and wings shorter than the their tail while perched
- **Behavior:** very feisty and attacks anything that visits their food source, males perform a steep U or vertical oval display
- **Habitat:** higher elevation or latitude conifer forest and mountain meadows, stream sides, and forest edges
- Found as far North as Alaska and breed at higher latitudes than other species



BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD

Female/Immature male



© Reed Gorner/Macaulay Library

Male



© Tristan Herwood/Macaulay Library

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

- **Females:** metallic green top with buffy sides, green spots on gorget and cheeks
- **Males:** metallic green top, sides, and crown, rosy-red gorget, broad tail with slight rufous
- **Size and Shape:** medium-sized, slender hummingbirds, with long, straight bills and tails longer than their wings
- **Behavior:** nests in the same spots year after year (philopatry), males perform aerial displays diving to the ground with a loud wing-trill and defend territory through perching to scan for intruders to chase them away
- **Habitat:** mountain meadows, forests, woodlands
- Found mainly south of the Snake River Plain



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Female/Immature Male



© Ronan Nicholson/Macaulay Library

Male



© Kyle Blaney/Macaulay Library

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

- **Females:** metallic green back, grayish chest, pinkish spotting on the gorget
- **Males:** metallic green back and chest, rose-colored gorget and crown
- **Size and Shape:** stocky body, straight, shorter bill
- **Behavior:** holds tail still while hovering, males dive and vocalize to display
- **Habitat:** yards, parks, gardens, forests and woodlands
- Idaho's only overwintering hummingbird and one of few temperate singing hummingbirds!



QUESTIONS?

For questions or comments, email

TeamEnvironmentalEducation@bogusbasin.org

To learn more about Bogus Basin's collaboration with Intermountain Bird Observatory and the hummingbird projects up here, visit

<https://www.boisestate.edu/ibo/science/hummingbirds/>

