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# HUMMINGBIRDS

## in the Xeriscape Garden

Common residents and visitors to the Xeriscape Garden, **Hummingbirds** are a favorite for all visitors regardless of age. The hummingbird is unique with its extremely small size and fast wing motion. The average wingbeat rate of the hummingbird is an astonishing 70 beats per second or more! Because of the extremely fast wing speed, the hummingbird must eat often to maintain the energy for flight. Their main food is nectar from flowers but small insects and spiders are also eaten. When the bird reproduces, it lays two tiny eggs. After a 2 week incubation, the blind and featherless chicks are hatched. After a few weeks, they leave the nest.

Hummingbirds are found only in the Americas. There are over 300 species in the Americas (the continental U.S. has 18 species). Most of the hummingbirds in the United States are migratory with some species traveling great distances every season. The Rufous Hummingbird has the longest hummingbird migratory flight on record with over 1400 miles! Although most scientists agree that hummingbirds are relatively short-lived with a life span average of 5 years, a female Broadtailed hummer was caught in Colorado and banded, then caught again 12 years later!

Photo by H. Scott Page

Costa's hummingbird



#### RANGE:



#### Black-chinned Hummingbird

- 3¼ inches in length.
- Male iridescent green above, black/violet throat.
- Female bronzy green above and white upper breast, buff color on sides, white tipped tail feathers.
- Range: Western U.S., from British Columbia south to Mexico. Winters in Mexico.
- The most common resident and breeding hummer in the garden.



Photo by H. Scott Page

#### RANGE:



#### Costa's hummingbird

- 3 inches in length.
- Males have a purple crown and throat.
- Female drab, greenish above and white below.
- Range: Southwestern desert states, from central California and southern Nevada, south to northwest Mexico.
- Common summer visitor to the garden.
- Breeds locally in Colorado River canyons and riparian zones.



Photo by H. Scott Page

#### RANGE:



#### Anna's Hummingbird

- 4 inches in length.
- Male has dark red throat and forehead. both male and female are iridescent green above and grey below.
- Range: Southern Oregon south to Baja Mexico. In summer, some reach Canada. Inland populations are migratory.
- A few regularly winter in the garden.
- They breed locally on lower mountain slopes.



Photo by H. Scott Page

*The Arboretum at UNLV serves the campus, the community, and the region through displays of flora adaptable to southern Nevada, the Mojave Desert, and other arid regions. The plant collection supports teaching and research, enhances campus beauty, and fosters awareness of plants in the human environment.*

Photo by Wayne Owen

Costa's hummingbird



#### PLANTS THAT ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS

Aloe Vera	Hesperaloe
Arizona Yellow	(red & white)
Bells	Honeysuckle
Candelilla	Jacobinia
Chuparosa	(red & orange)
Columbine	Lobelia
Cardinal Flower	Mojave Sage
Coral Bean	Ocotillo
Coral Bells	Paintbrush
Crimson	Penstemon
Monkey	Pineapple Sage
Flower	Red Autumn
Desert	Sage
Honeysuckle	Red Yucca
Desert Willow	Sina
Fairyduster	Snapdragon
Galvezia	Trumpet Vine