



United States Department of Agriculture

# Maintaining and Improving Habitat for Hummingbirds in California



– A Land Manager’s Guide –



Forest Service National Headquarters

**POLLINATOR  
PARTNERSHIP**

## Introduction



Hummingbirds play an important role in the food web, pollinating a variety of flowering plants, some of which are specifically adapted to pollination by hummingbirds. Some hummingbirds are at risk, like other pollinators, due to habitat loss, changes in the distribution and abundance of nectar plants (which are affected by climate change), the spread of invasive plants, and pesticide use. This guide is intended to help you provide and improve habitat for hummingbirds, as well as other pollinators, in California. While hummingbirds, like all birds, have the basic habitat needs of food, water, shelter, and space, this guide is focused on providing food—the plants that provide nectar for hummingbirds. Because climate, geology, and vegetation vary widely in different areas, specific recommendations are presented for each ecoregion in California. (See the *Ecoregions in California* section, below.)

This guide also provides brief descriptions of the species that visit California, as well as some basic information about hummingbird habitat needs.

Whether you're involved in managing public or private lands, large acreages or small areas, you can make them attractive to our native hummingbirds. Even long, narrow pieces of habitat, like utility corridors, field edges, and roadsides, can provide important connections among larger habitat areas.



Rufous Hummingbird nest  
Courtesy of Martin Hutten

## Hummingbird Basics



Big Sur, Central California Coastline  
Courtesy of Marguerite Meyer

Some of the hummingbird species of California are migratory, generally wintering in the southwestern US and Mexico and pushing northward and toward the coast for summer breeding. Anna's Hummingbird can be found throughout much of California year-round, while Costa's and Allen's are primarily found in Southern California year-round. For hummingbird species to thrive, they need to find suitable habitat all along their migration routes, as well as in their breeding, nesting, and wintering areas. Even small habitat patches along their migratory path can be critical to the birds by providing places for rest and food to fuel their journey.

## Food

Hummingbirds feed by day on nectar from flowers, including annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, and vines. Native nectar plants are listed in the table near the end of this guide. They feed while hovering or, if possible, while perched. They also eat insects, such as fruit-flies and gnats, and will consume tree sap, when it is available. They obtain tree sap from sap wells drilled in trees by sapsuckers and other hole-drilling birds and insects.



Western columbine—*Aquilegia formosa*  
Courtesy of Gary A. Monroe  
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

## Water

Hummingbirds get adequate water from the nectar and insects they consume. However, they are attracted to running water, such as a fountain, sprinkler, birdbath with a mister, or waterfall. In addition, insect populations are typically higher near ponds, streams, and wetland areas, so those areas are important food sources for hummingbirds.



Lake in Sonoma County, California  
Courtesy of Marguerite Meyer

## Hummingbird Species in California

Following are brief descriptions of the hummingbird species most commonly found in California, as well as a list of other species that are uncommon or rare visitors.

### Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

**RANGE**—Black-chinned Hummingbirds occur in all five *Bird Conservation Regions* (BCRs) in California, which are BCRs 5, 15, 32, 9, and 33. (See the Bird Conservation Regions section, below.) They breed during summer throughout the west and central U.S., and they winter in the lowlands of western Mexico. They are most common in areas below 6000 feet and inhabit a variety of habitats associated with water (less than 1/2 mile), including canyons and gulches, riparian corridors, open woodlands, oak and scrub areas, and urban settings.



Black-chinned—male  
Courtesy of Scott Carpenter



Black-chinned—female  
Courtesy of Scott Carpenter

**NESTING**—Habitat includes canyons or flood-plain riparian communities, especially near sycamore or cottonwood. In urban areas, they prefer settings with tall trees and many flowering shrubs and vines. After breeding, they may move to more elevated mountain habitats to feed on nectar-producing flowers.

Many will move or stay in urban areas, where flowering plants and feeders are attractive. Typically arriving in April, they migrate south in August.

**APPEARANCE**—Unlike other North American hummingbirds, the wingtips of the Black-chinned Hummingbird look relatively broad and curved when the bird is at rest. While hovering, they pump their tail almost constantly. The adult male is dull green to emerald green above, pale gray to whitish below, becoming dull green on the sides. It has a velvety black gorget with an iridescent purple band below; the purple band can look black in poor light. White on the breast extends around the sides of the neck, contrasting strongly with the all-dark head. The central two tail feathers are green; the others are black, often with a purplish sheen.

The adult female is dull green to golden green above and pale gray below. The sides are gray-green and often have a tawny or cinnamon-colored patch on the lower flank. The throat of the female can be unmarked or have dusky streaking or spotting in the center of the gorget. The tail is greenish or blackish, with the three outer pairs of tail feathers broadly tipped with white. Immature birds look similar to adult females; refer to a field guide for more information

## Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)



**RANGE**—The Anna's Hummingbird is the largest hummingbird in California. Once a chaparral specialist, it is now a year-round resident of the Pacific coast, from southern British Columbia to northern Baja California. Since the mid-1930s, its range has expanded greatly, likely due to its effective use of non-native plants and feeders in urban and suburban areas. The Anna's Hummingbird is the only hummingbird regularly found in central and northern California in winter; Allen's and Costa's also winter in Southern California. They are largely absent east



Anna's Hummingbird—male  
Courtesy of Jim Cruce

of the Sierras. Anna's Hummingbirds occur in all five Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in California, which are BCRs 5, 15, 32, 9, and 33.



Anna's Hummingbird—female  
Courtesy of Scott Carpenter

**NESTING**— This species begins nesting in winter (November/December) after the arrival of the winter rains, from sea level up to 5,700 feet. In summer, they inhabit shrubland communities such as chaparral-oak areas and brushy riparian areas, as well as urban and suburban areas. After breeding, they may move to higher elevations (up to 11,000 feet) in search of nectar plants. They do not migrate long distances. Instead, like tropical hummingbirds, they migrate up and down in elevation, different populations migrate to different places, and some populations (especially in cities) are sedentary.

**APPEARANCE**—Males are more vocal than any other North American hummingbird. The male has a dry, scratchy, buzzy song that it sings throughout the year, but especially during the breeding season, November-June. Adult males (and some young males) have an iridescent rose/red crown and gorget with elongated feathers projecting to the sides. Males turn their head from side to side as they sing, flashing their iridescent head as a signal to other hummingbirds. They have a green back and are grayish below. Outer tail feathers are gray, darker at the edges. The tail extends well beyond the wingtips.

Adult females also have a green back and grayish underparts. Gorget (throat) markings vary from bronzy gray mottling to a central splotch of rose/red feathers. Very rarely, rose feathers may occur on the crown. The tail extends to or beyond the wingtips. Tail feathers are broad, rounded, banded in dull gray-green, blackish, and white. Immature birds look somewhat similar to the adult females, although immature males have heavier mottling in the gorget. The Anna's Hummingbird typically holds its tail still while hovering.

## Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*)



**RANGE**—The Costa's Hummingbird is California's desert hummingbird, a common species found in hot deserts and other xeric habitats, mainly in southern California. This species breeds in three major habitat types: Sonoran Desert scrub, Mohave Desert scrub, and California coast. It leaves the Sonoran and Mojave Desert scrub

habitat after the peak of breeding season (mid-March through mid-April), and by May most of the birds have migrated from the area. Post-breeding destinations are largely unknown; some individuals may go to Mexico, whereas others seem to move uphill, similar to Anna's Hummingbird. Populations with a year-round food supply (e.g. hummingbird feeders) are sedentary. The species returns to Arizona and California deserts when desert lavender or chuparosa begin flowering. During the non-breeding season, individuals have been observed slightly above 7,800 feet in elevation in chaparral, scrub, or woodland habitat. Occurring in BCRs 32 and 33 in California, Costa's Hummingbird can be seen year-round throughout many desert and some coastal habitats of southern California.

**FOOD**—These hummingbirds feed on a variety of plants and insects, with particular focus on two shrubs in desert scrub areas, chuparosa and ocotillo. Additional nectar plants include desert lavender, thornbush, honeysuckle, beardtongue, coral bean, and New Mexico thistle.

**NESTING**—Costa's Hummingbird's begin to breed after the desert plants begin to bloom, and nest construction begins as early as mid-January. Nesting elevation ranges from 100 to 4,700 feet (Corman and Wise-Gervais 2005). Nests are found on plants in open, sparse habitat, but in urban environments may be in dense vegetation, from 1 to 40 feet above ground.

**APPEARANCE**—The male Costa's Hummingbird has an iridescent violet crown and gorget that runs along both sides of its throat. Both males and females have green upperparts. Females have a white throat and underparts, with occasional violet feathers.

## Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus calliope*)



**RANGE**—Calliope Hummingbirds occur in all five Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in California, which are BCRs 5, 15, 32, 9, and 33. They are common summer residents in mountain habitats from southern California to the Oregon border, seen only transiently in the southeast corner of the state and along the coast. Spring migration peaks in April, when the birds pass through both montane and lowland, coastal habitats along the Pacific Flyway. During migration they tend to co-occur with migrating Rufous Hummingbirds, and Rufous Hummingbirds are far more abundant than this species. Fall migration is through both the Pacific and Rocky Mountain



Costa's Hummingbird—male and female  
Courtesy of Cindy Thill

Flyways, at a wider range of elevations, from mountains to desert riparian corridors.

**NESTING**—Preferred nesting habitat is montane conifer forests, primarily in shrub-sapling seral stage into second-growth following fires or logging, and usually near (within 1 mile) of riparian habitat. They breed mostly in mountain areas from British Columbia to California, Nevada, and Utah. They breed mainly at middle elevations (4,000 to 7,000 feet), but sometimes as high as timberline (above 9,000 feet) and down to lower forest margins (500 feet).



Calliope Hummingbird—female  
Courtesy of Scott Carpenter



Calliope Hummingbird—male  
Courtesy of Scott Carpenter

**APPEARANCE**—The Calliope Hummingbird is the smallest breeding bird in North America and is the smallest long-distance avian migrant in the world. The male Calliope Hummingbird weighs about the same as a penny—about half as much as a male Anna's Hummingbird. The adult male is bright green above and creamy white below with a green wash on the sides and flanks. The adult male's gorget is iridescent, wine-red to magenta-red, and, unlike other North American hummingbirds, separated into distinct rays that fan across its throat. The male can elevate the rays into a starburst display against the white background of its throat. Wingtips extend to or slightly beyond the short tail. Tail feathers are

dull gray, variably edged with cinnamon at the base.

The adult female is bright green to golden green above and creamy white below, with a rusty wash on the sides, flanks, and across the lower breast. The gorget is evenly spotted with dusky to brownish bronze. The tail usually falls short of the wingtips. The adult female looks much like female Rufous or Allen's Hummingbirds, but it is smaller with a shorter bill, shorter tail, and less rust at the base of the tail. Immature birds look similar to adult females. Calliope Hummingbirds often cock their tails upward, perpendicular to the body, while hovering.

## Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*)



**RANGE**—The Broad-tailed Hummingbird is a long-winged, high elevation hummingbird whose migratory breeding populations range north across the Rocky



Broad-tailed Hummingbird—male  
Courtesy of David Inouye

Mountains to southern Montana and west through forested regions of Nevada and just barely make it into eastern California. They breed above 6000 feet (and so only rarely overlap with the lower-elevation Black-chinned Hummingbird). Summer breeding occurs along the central eastern

border of California in the White Mountains. Occurring in BCRs 9 and 33 in California, this species occupies high-elevation great basin mountain habitats, including piñon-juniper, pine-oak, montane riparian areas and wet meadows, and areas of open mixed conifers including fir, spruce, and pine.

**FOOD**—Broad-tailed Hummingbirds primarily consume nectar from flowers such as red columbine, Indian paintbrush, sage species, currants, and scarlet mint. Broad-tailed



Broad-tailed Hummingbird—female  
Courtesy of David Inouye

Hummingbirds also feed from flowers that are not typically used by other hummingbirds, including pussy-willows, and glacier lilies. They will also eat small insects, gleaning them from leaves and snatching them from midair.

**NESTING**—Nest site selection and construction is done entirely by the female

and can begin as early as late April, and ends by late July. Nests are typically observed on low horizontal branches of willows, alders, cottonwoods, pines, firs, spruces, or

aspens, generally 3-13 feet above ground. Their nests are often located over water. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds mainly breed between 6,000-10,000 feet, but have been observed nesting at elevations over 10,700 feet. After breeding, they follow the path of blooming plants.

**APPEARANCE**— These mid-sized hummingbirds have longer tail and wings than any other North American *Selasphorus* species. The male is green above and white below with an iridescent, rosy-red gorget. The male may be known at once due to the loud, cricket-like wing trill sound it produces with its wings. These specialized flight feathers allow him to be heard from about a 100-yard distance, making his presence obvious.



Rufous Hummingbird—male  
Courtesy of Jim Cruce

The female is green above and white below with rusty sides and rust at the base of the tail. Females can be distinguished from other *Selasphorus* species by a white eye-ring and long rectrices, which make their tails look longer and broader when fanned.

## Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)



**RANGE**— The Rufous Hummingbird travels farther north than any other hummingbird, wintering in Mexico and migrating to breeding sites as distant as Alaska.



Rufous Hummingbird—female  
Courtesy of Jim Cruce

Although a relatively small hummingbird, it has an aggressive nature and frequently chases larger hummingbirds from nectar sources. Its presence in California is solely migratory as it rotates between wintering sites in central and western Mexico and summer breeding sites in the Pacific Northwest. Fall migration begins in June and is split between the Pacific and Rocky Mountain Flyways. As with other hummingbirds, Rufous Hummingbirds typically move to higher elevations

for the fall migration, following nectar flowers. During migration, the Rufous Hummingbird occurs in all five Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in California, which are BCRs 5, 15, 32, 9, and 33. Rufous Hummingbirds are found in a wide variety of habitats.

**NESTING**—For breeding, they prefer second-growth forest communities and open-

ings, but they will also use mature forests, parks, and residential areas—from sea level to 4,000 feet. This species nests in southern Oregon, but nesting has not been confirmed in far northern California.

**APPEARANCE**—The back of the adult male Rufous Hummingbird is cinnamon-colored (rufous), sometimes spangled with green and rarely more than half green. The underparts are creamy white with a rufous “vest.” The crown is bright green, and the gorget is iridescent scarlet to orange, appearing golden or yellow-green from some angles. The tail extends past the wingtips. The rufous tail feathers are black-tipped and pointed.

The adult female is bright green above and white below, strongly washed with rufous on the sides, flanks, and undertail coverts. The face and sides of the gorget are also washed rufous. The gorget is off-white, spangled with green to bronze (concentrated on the sides). The throat is marked with red-orange, from just a few spangles to a large patch. The rounded tail extends past the wingtips; it is rufous at the base and banded with black. The outer three pairs of tail feathers have white tips. Immature birds look similar to the adult female, although the immature males typically show more rufous on the rump and lower back as well as heavier markings on the throat.



### Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)



Allen's Hummingbird—male  
Courtesy of Michael Duncan

The Allen's Hummingbird is closely related to the Rufous Hummingbird, and the two species look very similar, making identification a challenge where the species' ranges overlap. It breeds in coastal areas from California into southern Oregon and winters mostly in central Mexico and also along the Gulf Coast to Alabama. There are two subspecies, a migratory subspecies found throughout coastal California from Santa Barbara north; and a sedentary subspecies that does not migrate, found on

the Channel Islands as well as on the mainland coast, from Santa Barbara south to Mexico, and inland to Riverside.

**RANGE**—Allen's Hummingbird is a coastal species, rarely found more than 40 miles inland anywhere except southern California. It occurs in Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) 5, 32, and 33. In spring, Allen's Hummingbirds migrate along the coast in coastal scrub, chaparral, riparian woodland, and eucalyptus groves. They breed in the

summer along the entire length of the California coast and are present year-round in southern California around the Los Angeles County area. Southbound migration is apparently also coastal, as well as inland along the coast range at higher elevations mixed woodland, open coniferous forest, and montane chaparral habitats. There are also extralimital reports of southbound birds from interior and eastern parts of the state as they migrate between their breeding grounds along the coast and wintering habitat in Central Mexico. Southbound migration begins in June and peaks in July.



Allen's Hummingbird—female  
Courtesy of Michael Duncan

**NESTING**—They breed only in the narrow, moist, coastal zone affected by summer fogs, from sea level to 1,000 feet, and usually in or near shrubby, riparian habitat. Males typically select territories in open areas of coastal scrub or riparian shrubs, preferring willows as well as blackberry, dogwood, and poison oak. Females select nest sites in more densely vegetated areas with at least some cover.

**APPEARANCE**—It is very difficult to distinguish Allen's Hummingbirds from Rufous Hummingbirds. Both species even sound alike. The adult male Allen's Hummingbird is brilliant green above with a green crown, and a rufous rump and undertail coverts. Unlike nearly all adult male Rufous Hummingbirds, the back is more than half green. The tails of the two species differ slightly in appearance, but the bird must be held in the hand to make the distinction.

The adult female and immature Allen's Hummingbirds appear almost identical to those of the Rufous Hummingbird. Distinguishing the two species requires having the bird in hand.



### Others

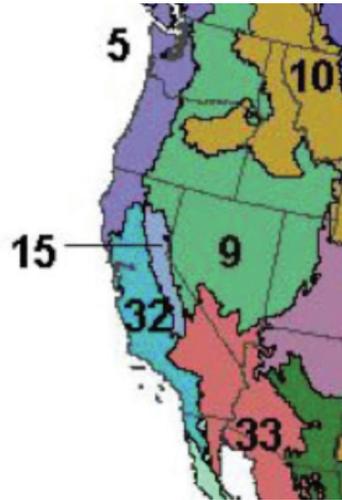
A few other hummingbird species are sometimes, though rarely, seen in California. They include:

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)
- Violet-crowned Hummingbird (*Amazilia violiceps*)
- Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*)
- Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*)

## Bird Conservation Regions in California

The United States North American Bird Conservation Initiative Committee is a coalition of government agencies, private organizations, and bird initiatives in the United States. The committee is working to ensure the long-term health of North America's native bird populations. Bird conservation initiatives have produced national and international conservation plans for birds as well as regional plans for numerous BCRs, which are ecologically distinct regions in North America with similar bird communities, habitats, and resource management issues. The regional plans provide more detailed information on population objectives and habitat needs for birds in specific landscapes.

The five BCRs in California, the Northern Pacific Rainforest (BCR 5), the Sierra Nevada (BCR 15), Coastal California (BCR 32), the Great Basin (BCR 9), and the Sonoran and Mohave Deserts (BCR 33), are shown on the map (above left).



## Ecoregions in California

Land within California lies within eight ecoregions (see below—codes in parentheses), which are shown on the map: *Ecoregions in California*. The ecoregion boundaries differ from those of the BCRs and their relationship is as below.

**(322) American Semi-Desert and Desert (ASDD)** – lies within BCR 33

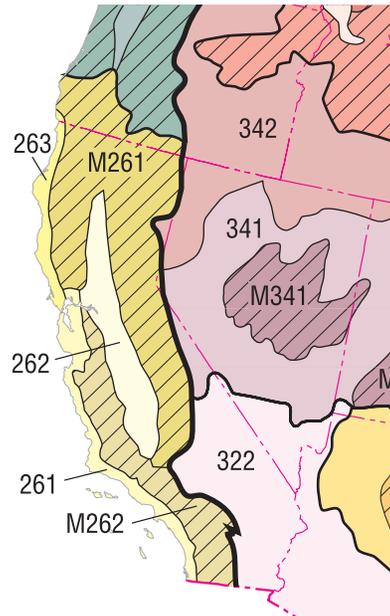
**(261) CA Coastal Chaparral (CACC)**  
– lies within BCR 32

**(263) CA Coastal Steppe (CACS)**  
– lies within BCR 5 and BCR 32

**(M262) CA Coastal Range Open Woodland (CACROW)** – lies within BCR 32

**(262) CA Dry Steppe (CADS)**  
– lies within BCR 32

**(M261) Sierran Steppe Mixed Forest (SSMF)**  
– lies within BCR 5, BCR 9, BCR 15, and BCR 32



**(341) Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert (ISDD)** – lies within BCR 9

**(342) Intermountain Semi-Desert (ISD)** – lies within BCR 9

**Note:** Ecoregion map adapted from <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/ecoregions/images/maps/ecoregions-united-states-sample.jpg>

The Pollinator Partnership website ([www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)) will show you which ecoregion you are in just by entering your postal zip code (under “Planting Guides” on the website). If you wish to supplement the information presented in this guide, for example, to attract other pollinators or to learn about other ecoregions, the Pollinator Partnership offers planting guides for ecoregions throughout the United States. The website provides additional tools and connections to useful resources for pollinator and plant information.

## Hummingbird Nectar Plants for Ecoregions in California

The following table (*Hummingbird Nectar Plants for Ecoregions in California*) lists some plants that are nectar sources for hummingbirds. These plants are native to California, and are adapted to conditions in the ecoregions indicated in the table. The table also provides basic information on habitat and light, soil, and water needs. Finally, the tables provide seed sources for each plant valid as of July 2015. A directory of the seed sources follows the tables. Use locally-adapted genetically appropriate plants in all your restoration and pollinator enhancement work. Seed zones—areas with genetically similar plants—help determine the right plant materials to use; poorly chosen plants usually fail to thrive. See [http://fs.bioe.orst.edu/web\\_maps/Seed\\_Zones.html](http://fs.bioe.orst.edu/web_maps/Seed_Zones.html)



Yellow Toadflax  
Courtesy of Colorado State  
University Extension—Adams County

for provisional seed zones of California, and select plant materials from your zone. Planting non-natives to attract hummingbirds is against policy and destructive: these plants can become invasive and disrupt ecosystems. For example, yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*, also called “butter and eggs”) is attractive to hummingbirds but is a noxious weed.

# Hummingbird Nectar Plants for Ecoregions in California

Botanical Name	Common Name	Ecoregion1							Bloom Season	Sunlight	Soils, Water	General habitat/ elevation	Seed Sources2
		ASDD	CACC	CACC	CACROW	CADS	SSMF	ISDD					
<b>Trees and Shrubs</b>													
<i>*Arbutus menziesii</i>	Pacific Madrone		X	X				X	Apr-May	Sun to partial shade	Dry, well drained	Exposed or wooded slopes & canyons below 5000'	CCW, LS, SSS
<i>Arctostaphylos spp.</i>	Manzanita (various species)		X	X	X			X	Dec-May	Sun	Dry		CCW, RNP, PS, S&S, SSS, TPF, WC
<i>Arctostaphylos glandulosa</i>	Eastwood Manzanita		X	X	X				Jan-Mar	Partial shade	Dry, gravelly	Chaparral or evergreen forests on dry, gravelly slopes & ridges; 1000-6000	TPF, WC
<i>*Arctostaphylos glauca</i>	Bigberry Manzanita				X				Jan-Mar	Sun to partial shade	Dry to moist, sandy to loamy	Dry slopes below 4500', chaparral	TPF
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i>	Common Manzanita							X	Fed-Apr	Sun to partial shade	Dry, well drained	Dry slopes & foothill canyons	SSS
<i>Arctostaphylos nevadensis</i>	Pine-mat Manzanita							X	May-Jul	Partial shade	Moist, well drained	Moist, open mt. woods; 2000-10,000'	SSS
<i>Arctostaphylos pungens</i>	Pointleaf Manzanita				X				Jan-Feb	Partial shade	Well drained, sandy	Mixed shrub and sagebrush communities, pinyon-juniper woods, canyons, lower mountain slopes	
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikinnick		X	X					Mar-Jun	Sun to shade	Dry to moist, rocky or sandy, acid soils	Rocky, open woods; dry, sandy hills; mountainous regions	PS, RNP
<i>Calliandra eriophylla</i>	Fairyduster	X							Feb-Mar	Full sun	Dry, gravelly	Dry, gravelly slopes & mesas	RNP
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert Willow	X							Apr-Sep	Sun	Dry, well drained	Desert washes	PS, RNP, S&S, SSC, TPF
<i>*Condea emoryi</i>	Desert Lavendar	X							Jan-May	Sun	Dry, sandy, gravelly	Washes, canyons, desert scrub below 3000'	
<i>*Fouquieria splendens</i>	Ocotillo	X							Feb-May	Full sun	Rocky, well drained	Desert washes	
<i>*Justicia californica</i>	Chuparosa	X							Mar-Jun	Sun	Dry	Desert washes	RNP
<i>Lonicera conjugialis</i>	Purpleflower Honeysuckle							X	Jun-Aug	Shade to sun	Moist	Woods, meadows and moist open slopes at mid-elevations in the mountains	
<i>*Lonicera involucrata</i>	Twinberry			X					Mar-Aug	Shade to sun	Moist, well drained	Moist or wet, open woods from sea level-10,000'	
<i>*Lycium andersonii</i>	Box Thorn	X							Mar-May	Sun	Dry	Dry, stony hills, mesas & washes	RNP, S&S, SSC
<i>Lycium cooperi</i>	Cooper's Box Thorn	X							Mar-May	Sun	Dry	Sandy to rocky flats, washes in deserts, to 6000'	S&S
<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i>	Mendocino Bush-mallow		X						May-Aug	Sun	Moist to dry	Dry slopes & canyon sides below 2500'	RNP, S&S, SSC
<i>Parkinsonia florida</i>	Blue Paloverde	X							Apr-May	Sun	Dry, well drained	Desert washes and grasslands	RNP
<i>Peritoma arborea</i>	Bladderpod					X			Feb-Jul	Sun	Dry	Subalkaline coastal bluffs; desert washes; stabilized dunes	RNP, S&S
<i>Pickeringia montana</i>	Chaparral Pea								May-Aug	Sun	Dry	Dry hillsides in chaparral	
<i>Ribes spp.</i>	Currants (various species)								Jan-May				CCW, PS, RNP, S&S, SSC, SSS, WC
<i>*Ribes aureum</i>	Golden Currant				X			X	Apr-May	Sun to partial shade	Dry to moist	Moist to drier hillsides & river valleys	CCW, PS, RNP, SSC

Hummingbird Nectar Plants for Ecoregions in California...continued

Botanical Name	Common Name	Ecoregion1							Bloom Season	Sunlight	Soils, Water	General habitat/ elevation	Seed Sources2
		ASDD	CACC	CACC	CACROW	CADS	SSMF	ISDD					
<i>Ribes glutinosum</i>	Wild Currant		X	X				X	Jan-Mar	Shade to partial shade	Dry to moist	Canyons and north slopes in the coast ranges, below 7000'	CCW, LS
* <i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	Chaparral Currant				X				Feb-May	Sun to partial shade	Well drained	Chaparral	CCW
<i>Ribes menziesii</i>	Canyon Gooseberry		X		X				Apr-May	Partial sun to shade	Dry	Shrubby or wooded canyons	
<i>Ribes quercetorum</i>	Oak Gooseberry					X			Mar-May	Sun	Dry	Woodlands, chaparral, and dry desert slopes and canyons	
<i>Ribes roezlii</i>	Sierra gooseberry							X	May-Jun	Sun to partial sun	Dry to moist	Moist mountain tops	
* <i>Ribes sanguinum</i>	Pink-flowered Currant		X	X				X	Jan-May	Sun to shade	Dry to moist	Canyons and north slopes in the coast ranges, below 7000'	CCW, RNP,
* <i>Ribes speciosum</i>	Wild Gooseberry			X					Jan-May	Part shade	Well drained	Brushy, shaded canyons below 1500	RNP, S&S
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Salmonberry			X					Mar-Jun	Shade to sun	Moist, acidic	Low, moist woods; stream banks; mt. slopes	
<i>Salvia spp.</i>	Various salvias		X		X								CCW, ESP, PS, RNP, S&S, SSC, TPF, WC
* <i>Salvia apiana</i>	White Sage		X		X				Apr-Jul	Sun	Dry, well drained	Dry slopes below 5000	RNP, S&S, SSC, TPF, WC
<i>Salvia carduacea</i>	Thistle Sage					X			Mar-Jun	Sun	Dry	Sandy or gravelly, open places	S&S, SSC
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland Sage		X	X	X				Apr-Aug	Sun	Well drained sand and gravel	Dry slopes below 3000	RNP, S&S, SSC, TPF, WC
<i>Salvia dorrii</i>	Hairy Sage	X							May-Jun	Sun	Dry	Dry, open scabland & sagebrush	S&S
* <i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	Purple Sage		X		X				May-Jun	Sun	Dry	Dry slopes below 4000'	LS, RNP, S&S, SSC
* <i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black Sage		X		X				May-Jun	Sun	Dry	Dry slopes & flats below 2000	RNP, S&S, SSC, TPF, WC
* <i>Salvia spathacea</i>	Hummingbird Sage								Mar-May	Partial shade	Moist	Open or shaded slopes below 2000	CCW, RNP
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red Elderberry			X					May-Jun	Sun to partial shade	Moist	Woodland, savannah, wet meadow/ prairie/field, riparian	SSC
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Common Snowberry				X				May-Jun	Sun to shade	Wet to moist	Wooded hillsides; rocky, open slopes	CCW, SSS, TPF
<i>Symphoricarpos longiflorus</i>	Desert Snowberry	X						X	May-Jun	Sun	Dry	Moister spots in the desert mountains	
<b>Perennial Herbs</b>													
<i>Antirrhinum multiflorum</i>	Chaparral Snapdragon		X		X				May-Jul	Sun	Dry, well drained	Chaparral slopes after fire, 3000-5000'	
* <i>Aquilegia Formosa</i>	Western Columbine		X	X	X			X	Feb-May	sun to shade	Dry to moist rocky soils	Moist, open woods, banks & seeps; 4000-9000	CCW, LS, SSS, WC
* <i>Castilleja spp.</i>	Various Castilleja	X			X	X	X	X					PS, S&S, TPF
<i>Castilleja applegatei</i>	Wavyleaf Indian paintbrush				X			X	Apr-Jun	Sun to partial shade	Rocky, dry, well drained	Sagebrush, open conifer woods	
<i>Castilleja exserta</i>	Purple Owl's Clover					X			Mar-May	sun	Moist to dry	Fields, deserts, and open, wooded areas	PS, S&S, SSC, TPF
<i>Castilleja linariifolia</i>	Desert Paintbrush	X						X	Jun-Sep	Partial shade	Dry, rocky	Plains, sagebrush, juniper forests, at mid to high elevations	
<i>Castilleja miniata</i>	Scarlet Paintbrush							X	May-Sept	Sun	Wet to moist, well drained	Moist meadows, forest openings, from coast to mountains	SSS

Hummingbird Nectar Plants for Ecoregions in California...continued

Botanical Name	Common Name	Ecoregion1							Bloom Season	Sunlight	Soils, Water	General habitat/ elevation	Seed Sources2
		ASDD	CACC	CACC	CACROW	CADS	SSMF	ISDD					
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Fireweed								Jul-Sep	Sun	Moist to dry	Disturbed soil in cool areas, burned areas	
<i>Cirsium occidentale</i>	Cobweb Thistle							X	May-Aug	Sun to partial shade	Dry	Below 6000'	LS
<i>Cynoglossum grande</i>	Western Hounds-tounge		X					X	Mar-Jun	Shade	Dry	Dry shaded places in woods	
<i>Delphinium cardinale</i>	Scarlet Larkspur		X		X				Mar-Jul	Partial sun to partial shade	Moist	Hot, dry openings in brush & woods below 5000'	
<i>Delphinium nudicaule</i>	Red Larkspur		X		X			X	Mar-Jun	Partial sun to partial shade	Moist	Dry, wooded or shrubby foothills below 6500	SSC, SSS
<i>Dicentra chrysantha</i>	Golden Eardrops				X				May-Jul	Sun	Dry	Dry, brushy areas prone to wildfire	WC
<i>Dicentra formosa</i>	Western Bleeding Heart			X				X	Mar-Jul	Sun to shade	Moist, well drained, humus rich	Cool, damp woods	SSS
<i>Dichelostemma</i>	Firecracker Flower			X				X	May-Jul	Sun to partial shade	Well drained	Grassy slopes in woodland openings at low or moderate elevations	CCW
<i>Ida-maia</i>													
<i>*Dudleya spp.</i>	Various Dudleyas	X	X		X			X					CCW, RNP, TPF, WC
<i>Dudleya abramsii</i>	Abram's Dudleya				X			X	Apr-Jun	Sun	Dry, rocky	Rocky cliffs	
<i>Dudleya cymosa</i>	Canyon Dudleya				X			X	Apr-Jun	Partial shade	Dry, rocky	Rocky, interior cliffs below 3500	SSS
<i>Dudleya lanceolata</i>	Southern California Dudleya		X		X				May-Jul	Sun to partial shade	Dry, rocky	North facing cliffs and rock crevices with little soil	RNP, WC
<i>Dudleya pulverulenta</i>	Chalk Dudleya		X		X				Apr-Jul	Sun to partial shade	Dry, rocky	Rocky areas and cliff faces below 3000'	RNP, TPF
<i>Dudleya saxosa</i>	Panamint Dudleya	X			X				May-Sept	Sun to partial shade	Dry, rocky	North facing cliffs and rock crevices with little soil	
<i>*Epilobium canum</i>	California Fuchsia							X	Jul-Oct	Sun	Dry	Dry slopes and ridges from sea level to high in the mountains	CCW, RNP
<i>Epilobium septentrionale</i>	Humboldt County Fuchsia			X					Aug-Nov	Part shade	Heavy soils	Dry sand or stony ledges	
<i>Eriodictyon parryi</i>	Poodle-dog Bush							X	May-Aug	Sun	Disturbed soils	Chaparral, on granitic slopes and ridges from 3000-7500'	
<i>Erysimum capitatum</i>	Wallflower		X	X	X			X	Mar-Jul	Sun	Dry, well drained	Plains; foothills; high elevation coniferous forests	TPF
<i>Erythronium</i>	Glacier Lily							X	May-Jul	Part shade	Moist	Grows in alpine or subalpine meadows, forest openings, among sagebrush	
<i>grandiflorum</i>													
<i>Fritillaria recurva</i>	Scarlet Fritillary				X				Apr-Jun	Sun to part shade	Dry	Rocky bush-covered slopes	SSS
<i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i>	Rose-Mallow					X			Apr-Sep	Sun	Wet	Borders of sloughs, ponds & ditches; low, wet woods	
<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>	Scarlet Gilia							X	Jun-Sep	Sun to partial shade	Dry, sandy to loamy	Hillsides, Slopes	SSS
<i>Iris missouriensis</i>	Western Blue Flag							X	May-Jul	Sun to partial sun	Moist to wet	Marshes; wet meadows	PS, S&S, SSC
<i>Keckiella antirrhinoides</i>	Chaparral Beardtongue				X				Apr-Jul	Sun to partial shade	Dry, rocky	Dry, rocky slopes below 4500	RNP, S&S, SSC, WC
<i>Keckiella breviflora</i>	Bush Beardstounge				X			X	Apr-Jul	Sun	Dry	Dry, rocky slopes below 8000	

Hummingbird Nectar Plants for Ecoregions in California...continued

Botanical Name	Common Name	Ecoregion1							Bloom Season	Sunlight	Soils, Water	General habitat/ elevation	Seed Sources2
		ASDD	CACC	CACC	CACROW	CADS	SSMF	ISDD					
<i>*Keckiella cordifolia</i>	Heartleaf Beardtounge		X		X				Mar-Aug	Sun	Dry, rocky	Dry, brushy slopes & canyons below 4000	RNP, S&S, TPF, WC
<i>Keckiella corymbosa</i>	Red Beardtounge			X			X		Jul-Sep	Sun	Serpentine soils	Open, rocky slopes and cliffs below 6000'	
<i>Keckiella lemmonii</i>	Lemmon Beardtounge						X		May-Jun	Sun to partial shade	Dry, rocky	Rocky slopes, conifer and mixed forests, chaparral	
<i>Keckiella ternata</i>	Scarlet Beardtounge				X				Jun-Aug	Sun	Dry	Exposed areas of north slopes below 6000'	WC
<i>Lepechinia calycina</i>	Pitcher Sage		X	X	X	X	X		Mar-Jun	Sun to shade	Dry to moist	Chaparral, woodlands	CCW
<i>Lilium</i>	Washington Lily						X		Jun-Aug	Sun-part shade	Well drained, dry in summer	Brush or open forests	SSS
<i>washingtonianum</i>													
<i>Lilium pardalinum</i>	Leopard Lily						X		May-Jul	Sun to partial sun	moist to wet	Conifer stream banks & springy places up to 6000'	SSS, TPF
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinalflower				X				Jun-Aug	Shade to sun	Wet to moist	Depressions, Woodlands edge, Opening, Stream banks	PS
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Barberry						X		May-Jul	Partial shade	Dry to moist, well drained	Dry, open woods & hills at high elevations	PS, RNP
<i>*Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Sticky monkeyflower		X	X	X		X		May-Sep	Sun to partial sun	Dry to moist		HF, LS, RNP, S&S, SSC, SSS, TPF
<i>Mimulus cardinalis</i>	Scarlet Monkeyflower		X		X		X		Apr-May	Shade	Wet to moist	Stream banks & seeps below 8000	RNP, S&S, SSC, TPF
<i>Mimulus dentatus</i>	Coastal Monkeyflower			X					May	Shade to sun	Moist, well drained	Coastal streams and wet shady places	
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	Seep Monkeyflower	X	X	X	X	X	X		Apr-Jul		Moist to wet	Stream banks; wet places to 10,000	CCW, LS, PS, RNP, S&S, SSC
<i>Monardella macrantha</i>	Red Monardella		X		X				Jun-Aug	Partial sun to partial shade	Moist to dry	Dry slopes & ridges from 2500-6000'	
<i>Monardella villosa</i>	Coyote mint		X	X	X		X		May-Aug	Sun to part shade	Dry, well drained	Chaparral, woodlands	CCW
<i>Oenothera elata</i>	Evening Primrose		X	X	X	X	X		Jun-Sep	Sun	Moist	Sandy stream banks; low, marshy areas	HF, RNP, S&S, TPF
<i>Pedicularis densiflora</i>	Indian warrior		X	X	X		X		Jan-Aug	Sun-partial shade	Moist to dry	Chaparral, forests, California oak woodlands at low elevations	SSS
<i>Pedicularis semibarbata</i>	Pine Lousewort				X		X		May-Jul	Shade	Dry	Coniferous forests	
<i>Penstemon spp.</i>	Various Penstemons		X	X	X		X		Mar-Aug				CCW, PS, RNP, S&S, SSC, SSS, TPF, WC
<i>Penstemon azureus</i>	Blue Penstemon						X		May-Aug	Sun	Well drained, dry	Dry, rocky slopes & banks; 3500-7500	SSS
<i>Penstemon centranthifolius</i>	Scarlet Bugler		X		X				Apr-May	Sun	Dry	Dry slopes below 6500	S&S, SSC, WC
<i>Penstemon clevelandii</i>	Cleveland's Penstemon	X							Mar-May	Sun	Dry	Dry, open slopes from 2500-4500	CCW
<i>Penstemon eatonii</i>	Firecracker Penstemon							X	Apr-May	Sun	Dry, well drained	Southwest desert mountains commonly in openings between Pinyon Pines	PS, RNP, SSC
<i>Penstemon gracilentus</i>	Slender Penstemon						X		Jun-Aug	Partial shade	Dry, well drained	Woodland, sagebrush; up to 9,000 feet	

Hummingbird Nectar Plants for Ecoregions in California...continued

Botanical Name	Common Name	Ecoregion1							Bloom Season	Sunlight	Soils, Water	General habitat/ elevation	Seed Sources2
		ASDD	CACC	CACC	CACROW	CADS	SSMF	ISDD					
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	Foothill Penstemon						X		Apr-Jul	Sun	Moist winter/spring, dry summer, good drainage	Dry hillsides below 5500	LS, RNP, TPF, WC
<i>Penstemon labrosus</i>	San Gabriel Penstemon						X		Jun-Aug	Partial shade	Well drained	Fairly dry, wooded slopes & benches; 5000-10,000	
<i>Penstemon newberryi</i>	Mountain Pride						X		Jun-Aug	Shade tolerant	Very well drained, rocky	Rocky places from moderate to high elevations	S&S, SSS
<i>Penstemon pseudo-spectabilis</i>	Desert Penstemon	X							Mar-May	Sun	Dry, well drained	Deserts, washes & canyons; 2000 to 7000	PS
<i>Penstemon rostriflorus</i>	Bridge Penstemon						X		Jun-Aug	Sun	Rocky, sandy	Dry slopes in pinyon & ponderosa pine forests; 4500 to 10,000	
<i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>	Showy Penstemon			X			X		Apr-Jun	Sun	Dry	Dry washes & disturbed areas below 6000	PS, RNP, S&S, TPF, WC
<i>Phlox speciosa</i>	Showy Phlox						X		Apr-Jun	Sun to partial sun	Dry to moist, rocky	Shrub-steppe, grasslands, lightly wooded areas, at low to mid elevations	
<i>*Sarcodes sanguinea</i>	Snowplant				X		X		May-Jul	Shade	Parasitic on conifers	Humus of coniferous woods	
<i>Satureja mimuloides</i>	Monkeyflower Savory				X				Jun-Oct	Sun	Moist to wet, clay	Creek sides in mountains	
<i>*Scrophularia californica</i>	California Figwort		X	X	X	X	X		Feb-Jul	Sun to partial shade	Sandy to clay, dry to moist	Coastal scrub and woodlands	CCW, LS, RNP, S&S, SSC
<i>*Silene californica</i>	Indian-pink						X		Apr-Jul	Sun to partial sun	Dry to moist	Open, brushy areas or woods below 5000	SSS
<i>*Silene laciniata</i>	Cardinal Catchfly		X		X				Apr-Jun	sun to partial sun	Moist to dry	Pine forests; grassy or brushy slopes	RNP
<i>Stachys chamissonis</i>	Coast Hedge Nettle			X					May-Oct	Sun to partial shade	Wet	Wet areas along the coast	
<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	Fringe cup		X						Mar-May	Shade	Moist, rich, well drained	Cool, moist woods & rocky places below 5000	CCW
<i>*Trichostemma lanatum</i>	Woolly Blue Curls				X				May-Aug	Sun	Poor, well drained	Dry slopes & chaparral below 3500	RNP, S&S, SSC, TPF

**Vines**

<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	Western Virgin's Bower						X		May-Aug	Sun to partial sun	Moist	Woods along streams; moist, brushy coulees	LS, PS, RNP, S&S, TPF
<i>Lathyrus vestitus var. ochropetalus</i>	Pacific Pea			X					Mar-Jun	Partial shade	Semi-dry	Forests, woodlands, and chaparral	
<i>*Lonicera ciliosa</i>	Vine Honeysuckle						X		Apr-Jun	Partial sun	Moist	Open woods & thickets	
<i>*Lonicera hispidula</i>	California honeysuckle		X	X			X		Jun-Aug	Sun to partial shade	Dry to moist	Open woods & thickets	CCW, LS, RNP
<i>Lonicera interrupta</i>	Chaparral honeysuckle				X		X		Apr-Aug	Sun to shade	Dry	Oak woodland, chaparral	
<i>Lonicera subspicata</i>	Southern honeysuckle			X	X				May-Aug	Sun to shade	Dry to moist	Chaparral slopes below 5100'	RNP

**\*Hummingbird adapted or preferred nectar sources**

**1 Ecoregions:**

ASDD = American Semi-Desert and Desert  
 CACC = CA Coastal Chaparral  
 CACS = CA Coastal Steppe

CACROW = CA Coastal Range Open Woodland  
 CADS = CA Dry Steppe  
 SSMF = Sierran Steppe Mixed Forest  
 ISD = Intermountain Semi-Desert

**2 Seed Sources:**

CCW = Central Coast Wilds

ESP = Environmental Seed Producers  
 HF = Hedgerow Farms

LS = Larner Seeds  
 PS = Plants of the Southwest  
 RNP = RECON Native Plants, Inc.

## Directory of Seed and Plant Sources

Central Coast Wilds  
336 A Golf Club Drive  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 459-0656  
info@centralcoastwilds.com  
www.centralcoastwilds.com

Environmental Seed Producers  
1859 West Olive Ave  
P.O. Box 2709  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
(805) 735-8888  
www.wildflowerseed.com

Hedgerow Farms  
21905 County Road 88  
Winters, CA 95694  
(530) 662-6847  
info@hedgerowfarms.com  
www.hedgerowfarms.com

Larner Seeds  
P.O. Box 407  
235 Fern Road  
Bolinas, CA 94924  
(415) 868-9407  
info@larnerseeds.com  
www.larnerseeds.com/

Plants of the Southwest  
Agua Fria Rt. 6 Box 11-A  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(800) 788-7333  
plantsofthesouthwest@gmail.com  
www.plantsofthesouthwest.com

RECON Native Plants, Inc.  
1755 Saturn Blvd.  
San Diego, Ca 92154  
(619) 423-2284  
info@reconnativeplants.com  
www.reconnativeplants.com

S&S Seeds Inc.  
P.O. Box 1275  
Carpinteria, CA 93014  
(805) 684-0436  
info@ssseeds.com  
www.ssseeds.com

Sierra Seed Supply  
358 Williams Valley Rd.  
Greenville, CA 95947  
(530) 284-7926  
orders@sierraseedsupply.com  
www.sierraseedsupply.com

Stover Seed Company  
P.O. Box 86175  
Los Angeles, CA 90086  
(213) 626-9668  
(800) 621-0315  
customer\_service@stoverseed.com  
www.stoverseed.com

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers  
and Native Plants  
10459 Tuxford Street  
Sun Valley, CA 91352  
(818) 768-1802  
info@theodorepayne.org  
www.theodorepayne.org

Wild California  
P.O. Box 1581  
Idyllwild, CA 92549  
(951) 692-5385  
jlasater@wildcalifornia.co  
www.wildcalifornia.co

This list of seed sources is not exhaustive, and is only meant to serve as a starting point for land managers. Seed inventories are constantly fluctuating, and some species are offered on a seasonal basis. Please check

the availability of specific species before visiting a particular seed source. Wholesale suppliers sometimes require a minimum quantity to place an order. In addition, the Native Seed Network ([www.nativeseednetwork.org](http://www.nativeseednetwork.org)) is an online resource that provides search tools and information on all aspects of native seed. You can search the network to find additional sources for native seeds.

## Additional Resources



Rufous Hummingbird  
Courtesy of Scott Carpenter

- The Western Hummingbird Partnership (WHP) is a developing network of partners collaborating to build an effective and sustainable hummingbird conservation program: [www.westernhummingbird.org](http://www.westernhummingbird.org)
- Native Seed Network: [www.nativeseednetwork.org](http://www.nativeseednetwork.org)
- North American Bird Conservation Initiative: [www.nabci-us.org](http://www.nabci-us.org)

- e-bird is a real-time, online checklist program and a way for the birding community to report and access information about birds: [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)
- Partners in Flight is a coalition of partners working to combine, coordinate, and increase resources of public and private entities in order to conserve bird populations: [www.partnersinflight.org](http://www.partnersinflight.org)
- Pollinator Partnership: [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

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