

Oklahoma Hummingbird Survey Results

2011 Summary



Wildlife Diversity Program
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife
Conservation

<http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hummingbirdsurvey.htm>

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INTRODUCTION

The Wildlife Diversity Program of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation first began requesting hummingbird data from Oklahomans in the 1988 *Watchable Wildlife Newsletter*. In 1991, the brochure “Oklahoma’s Hummingbirds” was published, complete with an Oklahoma Hummingbird Survey Form. In 2005, participants were given their first opportunity to submit data through the agency’s website. Data gathered are compiled and an annual summary of the results are prepared and sent to survey participants. The information provided through the survey allows the Wildlife Diversity Program to learn more about the state’s hummingbird population and how long these migrants reside in Oklahoma each year.

Hummingbirds belong to a group of birds called neotropical migrants – birds that winter from northern Mexico to the tip of South America and migrate to North America to breed. Scientists in North and South America have initiated a partnership for the conservation of neotropical migrants called Partners in Flight/Aves de las Americanas. Efforts on behalf of neotropical migrants are currently focused on habitat conservation and restoration, monitoring of wintering and breeding populations, and public awareness. Oklahoma has 66 breeding songbird neotropical migrants, including the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and in more recent years, the Black-chinned Hummingbird. Your continued participation in the Oklahoma Hummingbird Survey will help the Wildlife Diversity Program develop a quality database that will further the conservation effort directed toward these neotropical migrants. We can’t thank you enough!



2011 RESULTS

In 2011, **22 Oklahomans** from **17 counties** participated in the Oklahoma Hummingbird Survey, as opposed to 20 participants from 16 counties in 2010. The earliest hummingbird sighting in 2011 was of a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** on **March 31** in **Stephens County**. The earliest **Black-chinned Hummingbird** sighting reported was on **April 6** from **Jackson County**. The latest sighting reported for **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was on **November 3** from **Cleveland County**. The latest sighting for **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was **October 2** from **Jackson County**. A map is provided (Figure 1) showing earliest and latest recorded dates of both hummingbird species (where applicable) observed by county, as well as the number of reports for each county. The most frequently reported date for putting up hummingbird feeders was April 1 (50%). One hundred percent (100%) of participants put their feeders up before

April 15th. Fifty percent (50%) of participants took their feeders down on or after November 1 with the latest date being November 10th.

Participants were divided into western, central and eastern regions. Alfalfa County south to Cotton County defines the eastern boundary of the western region, and Osage County south to Bryan County defines the western boundary of the eastern region. In 2011 the Central Region had the most participants with 9 closely followed by the Eastern Region with 8 and the Western Region with 5. Regional results and comparisons are presented in Table 1 located on the same page with the map (Figure 1).

The list of other wildlife species visiting hummingbird feeders continues to be quite diverse. Wildlife species reported are as follows:

BIRDS

Baltimore Oriole
Orchard Oriole
House Finch
Wren sp.
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
American Goldfinch
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Carolina Chickadee
American Robin
Barn Swallow
House Sparrow
Tufted Titmouse
Eastern Phoebe

INSECTS

ants
honeybees
wasps (red & black)
Yellow jacket
House Fly
moths
praying mantis
Dirt Dauber (mud wasp)
Unidentified Butterfly sp.
Hummingbird Moth
walking stick
Beetle – Rose borer

MAMMALS

squirrels
raccoons

OTHERS

spider sp.
treefrog

Recorded observations of the use of plants by hummingbirds resulted in a diverse plant list. However I've only listed the top 15, in order of the most frequently listed.

Red Honeysuckle
Salvia sp.
Petunias
Lantana sp.
Cannas

Morning Glory
Rose of Sharon
Four'o'clocks
Trumpet Vine
Cypress Vine

Crepe Myrtle
Mimosa Tree
Zinnias
Impatiens sp.
Cardinal climber



Getting Ready for Year 2012 Hummingbird Observations!



For submitting your 2012 hummingbird survey results you may download the form from our website, save to your computer, complete and attach it in an email to: mhickman@zoo.odwc.state.ok.us. The survey form will be available through the Wildlife Department's website: http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlifemgmt/citizen_science.htm

Whether through the website or by postal mail please return or submit your information to the Oklahoma Wildlife Diversity Program before **January 15, 2013**.

We would also like to ask participants to record **specific dates** (in other words, include exact day) on your survey forms. Without a specific date, the point of the survey is negated.

We would welcome digital images of your hummingbird visitors. If you would like to submit one or more images, please send them to my email address: mhickman@zoo.odwc.state.ok.us. Please be sure that the images are high resolution (prefer 300 dpi) and provide me with how you would like the image to be credited. Sorry but we cannot provide remuneration for your images.

Again, we would like to thank all the participants for your contribution to the hummingbird database. All of the information you provide is beneficial to understanding the habitat requirements of the Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds.

Table 1. Data Comparison for Survey Results by Region

Region	# of Reports				Earliest Sightings Ruby-throated				Earliest Sightings Black-chinned				Latest Sightings of Hummingbirds			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Eastern	22	25	14	8	24-Mar	5-Apr	5-Apr	4-Apr	17-Apr	N/A	N/A	N/A	08-Nov	21-Nov	24-Oct	11-Oct
Central	21	12	2	9	1-Apr	30-Mar	14-Apr	31-Mar	23-Mar	23-Mar	N/A	3-May	22-Oct	30-Oct	4-Oct	3-Nov
Western	8	10	4	5	16-Apr	13-Apr	1-Apr	8-Apr	3-Apr	26-Mar	1-Apr	6-Apr	12-Oct	10-Oct	29-Sep	2-Oct
Total # reports	51	47	20	22												

