

# Oklahoma Hummingbird Survey Results

2012 Summary



Wildlife Diversity Program  
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife  
Conservation

<http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hummingbirdsurveyresults.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!



## 2012 RESULTS

In 2012, **19 Oklahomans** from **16 counties** participated in the Oklahoma Hummingbird Survey. The earliest hummingbird sighting in 2012 was of a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** on **April 4** in **McIntosh County**. The earliest **Black-chinned Hummingbird** sighting reported was on **April 5** from **Pushmataha County**. The latest sighting reported for an identified **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was on **October 11** from **Johnston County**. No one provided a date for the latest sighting for **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** in 2012. However, a Rufous Hummingbird was an observer’s latest hummingbird sighting on **November 30** in **Logan 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 (37%).

One hundred percent (100%) of participants put their feeders up before April 5<sup>th</sup>. Eighty-two percent (82%) of participants took their feeders down on or after October 15<sup>th</sup> with the latest date being December 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 2012 the Eastern Region had the most participants with 10 closely followed by the Central Region with 8 and the Western Region with 1. 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  
Carolina Chickadee  
American Robin  
Northern Cardinal  
**Rufous Hummingbird**

#### **INSECTS**

ants  
honeybees  
wasps (red & black)  
Yellow jacket  
moths  
praying mantis  
Unidentified Butterfly sp.

**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  
Four'o'clocks  
Trumpet Vine  
Cypress Vine  
Crepe Myrtle  
Zinnias  
Cardinal climber

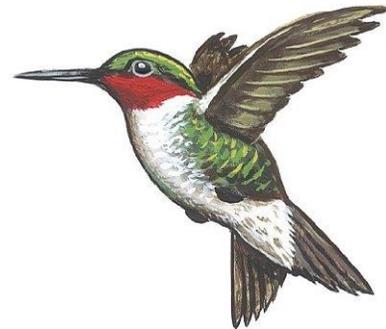
Bee Balm  
Phlox  
*Pentas*



### Comments From Our Participants:

- This is sooner than I have seen them in the past. Did not seem to be as many as other years. (Woods)
- 23 lbs of sugar used in 2012. Mixed 3 ½ cups water to 1 cup of sugar. (Logan)
- Not a good year for hummers here. (Payne)
- Our numbers have been low the last 2 years. We only had 5 – 6 until August and then that number doubled for a few weeks. (Logan)

### Getting Ready for Year 2013 Hummingbird Observations!



For submitting your 2013 hummingbird survey results you may download the form from our website, save it to your computer, complete and attach it in an email to:

[mhickman@zoo.odwc.state.ok.us](mailto:mhickman@zoo.odwc.state.ok.us).

The Survey Form has been revised to make it easier for participants to complete. The survey form is available through the Wildlife Department's website:

[http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlifemgmt/citizen\\_science.htm](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 **December 1, 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](mailto: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			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
Eastern	25	14	8	10	5-Apr	5-Apr	4-Apr	4-Apr	N/A	N/A	N/A	5-Apr	21-Nov	24-Oct	11-Oct	15-Oct
Central	12	2	9	8	30-Mar	14-Apr	31-Mar	5-Apr	23-Mar	N/A	3-May	N/A	30-Oct	4-Oct	3-Nov	30-Nov
Western	10	4	5	1	13-Apr	1-Apr	8-Apr	14-Apr	26-Mar	1-Apr	6-Apr	N/A	10-Oct	29-Sep	2-Oct	20-Sep
Total # reports	47	20	22	19												

