



# urban nature News

Your Local Birding & Nature Experts

Stories • Specials and More to Help Your Family Enjoy Birding!

May Newsletter 2020

## How To Attract Hummingbirds & Orioles to your backyard?

### RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

By Jane Paradis

These brilliant little jewels are on their way back from their wintering grounds in Costa Rica, Mexico and other Southern Locations. The male looks very handsome in the sun with his emerald green back and brilliant red throat. His breast is grayish white in colour. The female looks similar but lacks the ruby throat. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are the only hummingbird we see in eastern North America.

### Tips on attracting Hummingbirds to your yard:

It's easy to attract this hummingbird to your backyard. They will dart throughout your garden after drawn to flowers that are orange and red. Tubular shaped flowers are also a favourite. Providing a nectar feeder will also bring them to your yard. Nectar can be purchased from Urban Nature Store, or you can make your own using one part table sugar to four boiling water. The nectar needs to be changed on a regular basis so it's a good idea not to fill the feeder to capacity at the start of the season. At this time of year when it isn't too hot outside you will need to change the nectar 2 or 3 times a week. During the months of July and August the nectar should be refreshed daily. This also applies to Orioles. Hummingbirds also eat small insects and will snatch spiders from their webs.

**Did you know:** *A hummingbird beats its wings 53 times per second! Hummingbird nests are very small and can resemble a knot in a tree. Their eggs are the size of jelly beans. The oldest living hummingbird on record was 9 years, and 1 month old.*

### Orioles:

Baltimore and Orchard Orioles are the two species most common in eastern North America. They spend the winter months in Florida and down to the northern tip of South America. Orioles will breed from Louisiana up through Canada from early April to mid May. The Baltimore Oriole is also referred to as the Northern Oriole. The male is vibrant orange, with a black head and wings. Their wings also have a white wing bar. Female and immature males are pale orange with a grayish back. Their song is rich and flute-like and you'll often see the male singing in the treetops. Their nests is quite exquisite resembling a slender bag. The female builds the nest by weaving plant fibre, bark, grass and string together and lines it with grass, soft plant down and hair. She builds the nest in deciduous trees and secures the rim near the end of a branch.

Orchard Orioles are the smaller of their species. The male Orchard Oriole has a reddish-chestnut coloured breast and rump, black head and wings with a white wing bar. Females are pale yellow with greyish-black wings and white wing bar. Their nest is very similar to the Northern Orioles, but not as deep. Orchard Orioles have a lovely warbling song which is similar to the Purple Finch.

### Tips on attracting Orioles to your yard:

You can attract Orioles to your garden by offering nectar, orange slices or halves, and grape jelly (Jelly being a crowd favourite). It's important to get your feeders up by the end of April. We offer a variety of feeders for these beautiful birds, so order online or curbside pick up [UrbanNatureStore.ca](http://UrbanNatureStore.ca), we'd be happy to help you get ready for the orioles and hummingbirds.

## COVID-19 UPDATE | URBAN NATURE STORE

**During these challenging times, the Urban Nature Store has implemented Curb Side Pick-up Service and Local Home Delivery.**

### CLICK & COLLECT

Order online at [www.UrbanNatureStore.ca](http://www.UrbanNatureStore.ca) – you can place an order online and mark it for in-store pick-up at your local Urban Nature Store. All online orders marked for in-store pick-up, will be handled as Curb Side Pick-up. When you arrive at the store, call us and we will bring out your order to your car.



# Give Your Mom Hummingbird Feeder for Mother's Day

Mother's Day is just around the corner. If you are still looking for the perfect gift, I know just the thing, rubies.



Aspects Hummzinger HighView Excel Hummingbird Feeder 16 Oz. ASP-441

Don't worry, I am not talking about the expensive red gem, but I am talking about one of the spring and summer's most popular bird the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. This is when most Ruby-throated Hummingbirds make their way here from their winter homes and when they arrive they sure do have an appetite. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are eastern North America's only breeding Hummingbird, and they occupy the largest breeding range of any North American Hummingbird. These Hummingbirds are distinguished by their bright emerald green backs and white underbelly. Males have a bright ruby colored throat, which gives them the name. To ensure you get these "Rubies" for your loved one, you need to choose the right feeder, supply nectar, and get all the accessories, which are necessary to help these Hummingbirds sticking around your yard. While there are hundreds of different Hummingbird feeders available, there are two main characteristics you want to look for within the feeders. First, how easy does the feeder clean? Hummingbirds can be very particular and you need to make sure the ports, as well as the inside of your Hummingbird feeder are clean. Having an easy-to-clean feeder saves you lots of time and effort. The second characteristic you look for in a feeder is the features.

**Keep the Feeders Clean:** Wash with hot water and clean all ports thoroughly with a small brush such as Droll Yankees Perfect Little Brush that is great at cleaning out the hard to reach nectar ports. Never top off partially filled feeders or refill empty feeders before cleaning them.

## Hummer Ring - Hand Feed for Hummingbird

The Hummer Ring makes a terrific gift for a wild bird and backyard nature lover! It's also a great way to get kids away from their phones and other devices and interested in the joys of nature around them. With the Hummer Ring, both children and adults of all ages can enjoy the thrill of a hummingbird feeding literally out of their hand.



Perfect Little Brush (DY-PLB)

# Understanding Binocular Terminology



**Power:** Magnification. Usually 8x or 10x. Indicates how many times larger (or closer) an object appears.

**Objective Lens:** The lens closest to the subject you are looking at (the furthest from your eyes). The size is measured in millimeters and is the second number used to describe binoculars. (see image)

**Close Focus:** How close the binoculars can focus on an object. Usually you will want a close focus of 6-12 feet. If you are observing smaller birds or butterflies close up, this can be quite an important consideration.

**Field of View:** The area that can be seen when looking through a pair of binoculars. A larger field of view makes it easier to locate the subject. Usually bins with higher magnification have reduced field of view. The trade-off between magnification and field of view is an important decision point.

**Focus Knob:** This is turned to bring the image in and out of focus. Typically located on top in the center of the binocular.

**Diopter:** Adjusts the focus of the right optical barrel to compensate for differences in clarity and focus between your eyes. It is usually an adjustable ring on the right eyepiece or the central focus wheel.

**Eye Relief:** The distance from the outer surfaces of the eyepiece lenses to the position of your eyes to obtain a full field of view. If the distance is too short, your eyes or eyelashes may touch the lens. But if it's too great, your field of view is diminished.

**Center Hinge:** The movable part that allows you to adjust the distance between the two barrels.

Shop Online at [www.UrbanNatureStore.ca](http://www.UrbanNatureStore.ca) to see our wide range of Binocular + Optics from well known Manufacturers such as **Vortex, Kowa, Nikon, Zeiss and Swarovski.**

