

HSV AUDUBON WEBMASTER ARTICLE BELOW SENT TO VILLAGE VOICE FOR 9/2 PUBLICATION.

HSV RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD MIGRATION

The most common hummingbird in HSV is the Ruby Throated, Archilochus Colubris, hummingbird. NOW is the time for their annual migration south, so you may have noticed an increase in activity around your flowers and feeders. They are eating more insects and nectar to store up energy in preparation for the long trip thru Louisiana or Texas, over the Gulf of Mexico and onward to Mexico or South America. They migrate individually, not in flocks and keep moving daily. Most often in the Fall, males will head out first to establish winter territories followed by females and juveniles. Hummingbirds migrate based on several factors with the most important being the available light. As the hours of daylight shorten, the hummingbirds begin to prepare for migration with some species moving as early as July. During this migration period you may spot another species not normally seen in HSV, enjoy them. They are just passing through on their southward journey. Keep your hummingbird feeders clean and filled with nectar (1cup sugar dissolved in 4 cups water then cooled) for at least another month, the migration activity will entertain you daily. Your hummingbird feeder will not impede migration activity.

HSV Audubon Society in coordination with Potlatch Education Center, are sponsoring an HSV hummingbird FEEDING count on September 9, 2014 as part of a citizen science project studying migration patterns on hummingbirds. We are asking you to participate counting hummingbirds who stop to feed at your home during any 15 minute period or less. More information on hummingbirds and forms for the hummer count are available at our website www.hsvbirds.org, look for the Hummingbirds page. Send any questions to hummers@hsvbirds.org

Another Opportunity to enjoy the hummingbirds is an HSV Audubon Society field trip coordinated by Vic Prislipsky for members, friends, and guests to Potlatch Conservation Education Center for a hummingbird banding activity. An all day banding event on September 17 (reservations required) will be led by Tana Beasley, Facility Director and Arkansas licensed bander. For this free, all-day event, bring your camera, lunch, snacks and drinks, carpooling available from outside the East gate, departing at 8:15 am – 110 miles each way. Limited walking required lots of fun guaranteed. For more information and to make your required reservation for the banding trip email fieldtrips@hsvbirds.org.



**HUMMER READY FOR TAKEOFF
PHOTOGRAPHER = VIC PRISLIPSKY**