



Rufous Hummingbird

(Selasphorus rufus)

STATUS

SARA NO STATUS
 Alberta SECURE

British Columbia YELLOW
 Saskatchewan ABSENT

PRIMARY HABITAT

Coniferous

TERRITORY SIZE

Colonial

NEST TYPE

Canopy

NEST REUSE

Common

STAND LEVEL

Retention of preferred nest tree species, flowering plants, and trees with sapsucker wells.

LANDSCAPE LEVEL

Heterogeneous landscapes containing early- and late-seral forests.

The Rufous Hummingbird is an incredible species that travels from Mexico and the Gulf States to the Pacific Northwest and as far north as Yukon and Alaska. And yet, it manages to return to the same site to nest each year.

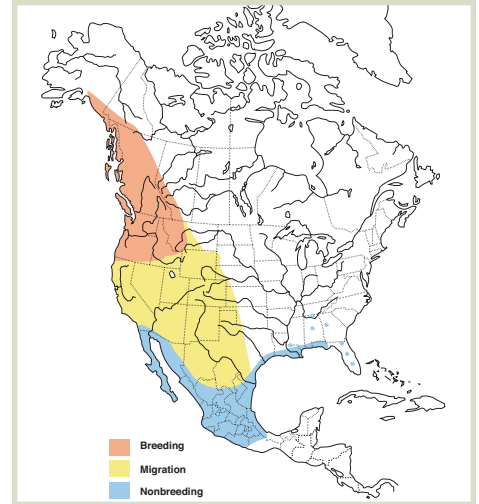
BREEDING WINDOW



HABITAT ECOLOGY

- The Rufous Hummingbird feeds mainly on flower nectar, insects, and both the sap flowing from sapsucker wells and the insects that get caught in it.^{1,2}
- This bird species is found in a wide range of habitats, and the common factor among them is the presence of flowering plants and shrubs.² Habitats include:
 - Dense second-growth and mature coniferous forests (primary breeding habitat).¹
 - Deciduous stands, riparian thickets, swamps, and meadows.¹
 - Young postfire and postharvest habitats with abundant shrubs.³
 - Mature and old coniferous forests containing tree-fall gaps, natural openings, edges, and/or riparian habitats (i.e., openings where flowers grow) and old forest features including high structural diversity, high midstory cover, and lower canopy cover.²
- The Rufous Hummingbird mainly nests in conifers. They mostly nest in western redcedar and Douglas fir, and also nest in spruce, hemlock, pine, and fir trees. About 25% of nests are in deciduous species.¹

RANGE MAP



RESPONSE TO FOREST MANAGEMENT

- Many studies have found a positive association between Rufous Hummingbird and clearcutting^{2,4-6} and narrower riparian buffers,^{7,8} and neutral to positive effects of thinning,⁴ selection harvesting,² and patch retention.⁶
- However, other studies (primarily in the Washington Cascades) have found reduced numbers in old forests fragmented by clearcutting. Low numbers were also observed in young and mature stands, suggesting the above results should be interpreted with caution.²

STAND-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Relatively young harvest blocks (with or without retention) with a well-developed shrub layer appear to be suitable habitat for this species. Foraging habitat for the Rufous Hummingbird may be improved by protecting and/or not suppressing understory shrubs during and after harvest.
- Retention patches containing preferred nest tree species (e.g., western redcedar and Douglas fir) may benefit Rufous Hummingbirds, however their direct use of retention patches for nesting has not been verified.
- Trees with visible sapsucker wells and high sap-yield species (e.g., paper birch) are recommended as anchor points for retention patches as they may increase food availability for Rufous Hummingbirds.