

Carson O Piñon!

Carson Community Association

Annual, (sometimes semi-annual), Newsletter

Editor: Elizabeth Brownrigg, PO Box 40, Carson, NM 87517

Spring 2017



-photo by Elizabeth Brownrigg

A Letter from the New Store Owner!

Greetings Carsonites,

I'm very excited to be moving to Carson. I have several loose ends to wrap up here in California, and after that I have to figure out the best way to get my things to Carson. Once there I'll take a day or two off and then dive into fixing up the former Poco Loco. The new name is yet to be determined. Buying the store represents a career change for me. After 40 years in construction, the thrill is over.

I will do my best to establish a country store with plenty of ambience and stocked with goods and items based on the needs of my fellow Carsonites. Since I've always been an early riser you can expect me to be ready with coffee and muffins at the crack of dawn. I look forward to meeting everyone and being a part of the Carson community.

See you all soon!

Craig Osen (pron. "oh-sane")



12 ft. Shasta travel trailer for sale for \$200.



**It needs repairs to the front right corner and door.
Call Maurice @ 323-828-0101.**

Treasurer's Report and Request

-Elisabeth Maier, CCA Treasurer

We have \$1,830.07 in our account.

Please send your annual household dues, (\$10), or what you can afford to contribute to the Carson Community Association:

CCA PO Box 101 Carson NM 87517

These funds are used to help maintain the CCA Community Building, (Quonset Hut) and pay for fundraiser expenses.

Food Bank & Clothing Boutique

The Food Bank is now filling over 50 bags per week. Almost half of them go to folks in Carson. Please donate to the Food bank by sending a check payable to The Food Depot, (in memo be sure to write: “for Santo Niño, Carson”) 1222 Siler Road Santa Fe, NM 87507

The Clothing Boutique has been open a bit over a year now. It is located in the shed next to the CCA Building. People are always in need of clothing. We urgently need men’s clothing, shoes, and socks now. Women’s and children’s clothing are welcome, too. You can bring donations to the Quonset Hut from 3:30 to 4:30 on Thursdays or call Elisabeth for pick up at 751-7480. Thank you!

Treasurer’s Report

CCA Net Income from Fundraisers

-Elisabeth Maier, CCA Treasurer

2010:	\$ 1093.00	
2011:	\$ 1068.79	
2012:	\$ 2163.34	
2013:	\$ 2374.31	
2014:	\$ 1093.01	
2015:	\$ 954.47	spring: \$ 207.00
		fall: \$ 747.47
2016:	\$ 2141.71	spring: \$ 1003.00
		fall: \$ 1138.71

The 3rd Annual Spring Bling Fling!
Saturday, May 13, 11:00 - 3:00 at the CVFD
Buy, Sell, Socialize

Remembering...

-Gerald Boxberger

The road was just a set of slightly improved wagon tracks from Carson to Taos Junction. I started pre-school, (what they called it then), in Ojo Caliente just before I turned five and rode the school bus for many years until graduation from high school. The road from Taos Junction to Ojo Caliente was not paved and most of it was on the old railroad grade that went to La Madera. This railroad track was called the La Madera Switch and was used to haul logs from La Madera and Vallecitos to Taos Junction. This railroad branch, off the Chili Line Railroad, was closed by the time I started school. It was a rough road and full of washboards. It was several years later when they changed the alignment and built the new road, US Highway 285. At that time there were still several kids riding the bus.

By the mid- to late-1940s a big portion of Carson people had moved elsewhere. This was after the Carson Reservoir failed to hold water. The people only got to irrigate from the reservoir for about a year and a half, then most people gave up after it did not work.

Eventually the school bus route from Carson to Taos Junction was canceled. They paid my folks a little to take me to Taos Junction where we met the school bus that came from Tres Piedras. It made for a long day, but I survived, and my folks hung in there to make sure I got an education. I got a scholarship to Adams State College, (now University), in Alamosa, Colorado, where I met my wife, Karen, and the rest is history.

Sigh....

-The Old Man

Carson has been and still is the wonderful place I thought it would be, with one glaring exception. Your old man here has planted trees, shrubs and flowers of various kinds at the corner of Columbine Lane and South Carson Road. I know you all have enjoyed my effort because I've been told so many times. However, in the process of redoing my rock garden, I came across a problem. Some despicable individual had stolen all my volcanic rocks! If you know whom or why, please contact me. I'd rather have given the rocks than to have a thug for a neighbor.

Got mud?

**Remove the snow pronto next time
and improve your driveway!**

Peter Allen has plough, will travel.

505-795-3298

unreasonable prices, call anyway

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Classics Book Club

Is anyone interested in filling the gaps in their high school/college reading assignments of the classics? I'd like to start a Classics Book Club. If interested, contact Maurice at 323-828-0101 or f_palinski@sbcglobal.net

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Vista Verde Retreat

**Put up ~~with~~ your friends and family
here in Carson.**

www.vistaverderetreat.com
elizabeth@vistaverderetreat.com
575.758.2758

Please give *monthly* to the Santo Niño Food Bank.

(a charitable organization under the CCA)

Make checks payable and mail to:

The Food Depot

(!!Specify your donation for Santo Niño Carson in the memo on check!!)

Attn: Viola Lujan,

1222 A Siler Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507

www.thefooddepot.org

Your donation is a tax-exempt

Your Neighbors and Your Dogs

Carson residents with dogs are reminded that we are responsible for not allowing our dogs to persistently or continuously bark so as to annoy our neighbors. We are also responsible for preventing them, and cats, too, from trespassing onto the property of our neighbors. Our dogs should be restrained on our property either by a fence or by using a leash.

If you fail to control or silence your dogs following requests from neighbors, your neighbors can call the sherriff to enforce elements of the Animal Control Ordinance. If we don't want law enforcement officers mooching around our property it would be wise to know more about the Animal Control Ordinance. You can read it online at taoscounty.org.

If your neighbors' dogs are causing nuisance to you with their barking or by trespassing, it is best to try first to resolve this with your neighbor. If you are unable to resolve animal problems you can, as a last resort, contact the Taos County Sheriff's Department anonymously at (575) 737-6480. They are empowered to impound any animal that is in violation of the requirements of the Ordinance or of State Law. Each infringement of the Taos County Animal Control ordinance carries a \$300 fine.

**IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE EMERGENCY PHONE TREE PLEASE CONTACT
ELIZABETH: 758-2758 or egb@elizabethbrownrigg.com**

Of Mice, Men, and Wildlife

-Paul Green

Do you have problems with mice in your car? Do you put a small container of mouse poison in your car to prevent damage? Many of us do. Chances are that the poison you use is one of the so called “second generation anti-coagulants”. Check the label to see if it contains brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone, contained in rat poisons such as TomCat, Hawk, and dCon.

These kinds of poison are lethal to mice and rats after just one feeding, but it may take the mouse up to five days to die. The rodent can feed lots of times before it dies, so by the time it does die it may contain many times the lethal dose of poison, enough to kill a much larger animal such as your dog or cat.

The poisoned rodent is likely to wander some distance from your car before it dies and is likely to become very disorientated before it dies. There’s a strong possibility that during this time it will be eaten by an owl, jay, raven, bobcat, coyote, or by your dog or your cat. The animal that eats the poisoned mouse will probably die within about five days of eating the mouse or rat. And if that Raven or cat is eaten by a coyote or mountain lion that animal too is likely to die. If it is your pet that suffers, be sure that you bury it or have it cremated to make sure that no other animals suffer by scavenging the exposed, intoxicated carcass.

These second generation coagulants, like brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, and difethialone, contained in rat poisons such as TomCat, Hawk, and dCon, interfere with vitamin K metabolism in the body. Once all the stored vitamin K is used up, the blood clotting mechanism stops, and the animal that has consumed the poison dies of internal bleeding. But it may take several days for the rat poison to affect your dog or cat, so if you recognize the symptoms in your pet your vet can test for the poison and administer vitamin K as appropriate and that may save its life. In addition, those blue-colored grains in trays can be eaten directly by seed-eating birds, and they will die as a result. So rodent poison is a real danger to you, your pets, and our wildlife.

(continued...)

If you check TomCat, Hawk, and dCon rodent poisons in the store right now they contain different active ingredients, including Vitamin D Analogs (Quintox, Rampage, Rat-B-Gone, and Mouse-B-Gone), bromethalin (Fast Kill), strychnine (gopher bait), and zinc phosphide in gopher bait such as Moletox, most of which have no known antidote at this time.

The good news is that it became illegal to sell rodent poisons that contained second-generation anticoagulants in 2015, and retailers were allowed to sell their remaining stock during 2016. The bad news is that you can still buy them in bulk online and registered pest control agents can use them so there may still be poisoned mice around that can kill your pets and wildlife.

What can you do to minimize the death of non-target animals around us? First, try to exclude rodents from places you don't want them. Second, keep wood piles and other areas that rodents frequent away from your house. Third, use traps not poisons. Finally, if you feel you must use a poison, try one of the new rat baits that specifically state on the box that they are safe to use around pets and wildlife. MouseX and RatX are the only ones available right now. They are generally a mix of cereals with household salt: the salt kills the rodent by dehydration, and it is not toxic to other animals. You can buy it at Ace in Taos. I have tried these and they appear to work.

If you have used Tom Cat, dCon, or Hawk, rodent bait in the past that contains brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone, be sure to bury or burn the corpses of dead rodents you find, bury them as deep as you can, or put them in the trash double wrapped in a plastic bag. Finally, if you have any Tom Cat, dCon, or Hawk, and you are concerned about the safety of pets or wildlife, it would be wise to get rid of it following the instructions on the box.

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Liz Cutter

Handmade Hats, Alterations, Hems, & Custom Sewing, including T-shirt Quilts from your favorite t-shirts. Contact Elizabeth Halley, your former post office manager: 575-770-9103 or Lizcutter46@outlook.com

Jicarita Peak

-Scott Stephens

From here, looking out the front door, Jicarita Peak stands in the distance. The view of it is so welcoming in the summer; so forbidding in the winter. I've been there quite a few times. Up through Peñasco, Rodarte, and Santa Barbara campground, then up Jicarita Creek and on up to the edge of the timberline. From there it is a fine hike up to the peak. Once up on the peak, one can see three hundred sixty degrees, all around.

On this particular day up there the sky was dark and light, roiling in motion. The clouds rose and fell and swirled. Cauldrons of light and dark clouds boiled and circled all around the high peaks and valleys. The wind tore and heaved relentlessly.

Suddenly it became calm. The clouds parted, revealing bright blue sky. Diving straight out of the clearing burst a long-winged glider, a sail plane. It was so close I could see the pilot's surprised face! He pulled the plane up, the clouds closed, and he was gone.

On another trip I took up there, the clouds drifted in slowly, no wind. In the middle of the clouds it was like a dense, moist fog. Muffled silence, not so cold, but not warm. The clouds moved in to form a solid fog. I closed my eyes and rested after the long arduous trek. Twenty minutes or so went by. I opened my eyes and looked around. Surrounding me were marmots sitting up straight, enjoying the fog, having a social event, and ignoring me completely!

Spring is here! Let's think of growing!

Peter Allen has trees and will deliver and help plant in the Carson area:

- Little leaf Linden (edible leaves for salads and flowers for tea);
- White Ash (beautiful purple color in fall);
- Service berries (native, fruit like blueberries and gorgeous fall crimson color);
- Burr Oak and Burgambel Oaks (good wildlife habitat);
- Big Tooth Maple (native, another fall showoff).

www.highdesertbeesandtrees.com

505-795-3298 reasonable wholesale prices



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non-judgmental counseling in a relaxed atmosphere in Carson and Taos.
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From the CCA President

-Elizabeth Brownrigg

Hi Everyone,

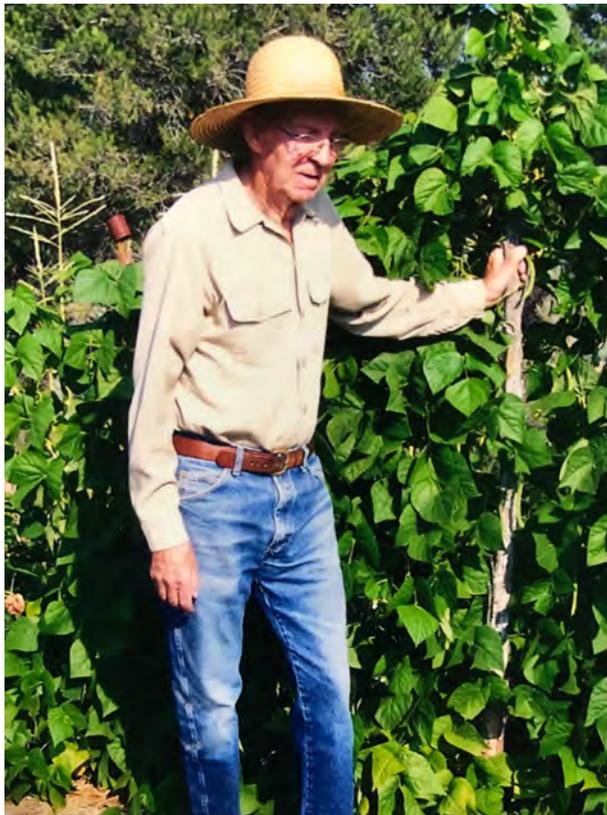
I want to welcome all the new folks to Carson, and remind people that the Carson Community Association hosts three social events throughout the year:

1. The Spring Bling Fling is a spring yard sale we have each spring. People bring their quality items to sell at the Fire Department, where we have tables set up, and donate 20% of their sales to the CCA. It's a great time to meet and socialize, as well as buy and sell. This year it will be on Saturday, May 13, 11:00-3:00.
2. The Fall Festival is in October, either at the store or the fire department. This is our major annual fundraiser. We have a wonderful raffle, a great BBQ and bake sale, entertainment, and folks can also bring things to sell.
3. Holiday Pot-Luck Party is mid-December at the Quonset hut. The CCA provides beverages, and people bring food to share. Sometimes we have a bonfire and sing some carols, too. A nice way to wrap up the year.

In addition to these fun events, we typically have 3 – 4 general meetings to discuss issues or improvements needed in the community, and to vote in officers for the CCA Board. These meetings usually last about an hour and a half, often less, and it's great when people come and participate. Announcements for all of the above are sent out to the Carson email list by either our secretary, Paul Green, or by me. We also post a notice on the Carson Community Bulletin Board two weeks in advance. I hope to see you at these events, and if you'd like to be on the email or mailing list, please contact me: 575-758-2758 or egb@elizabethbrownrigg.com.

RIP Don Kirk, 1928 – 2016

Don Kirk was raised part-time in Carson by his grandparents. He moved here permanently from southern California in 1978 with his wife, Pat, where they raised the youngest of their four children. The Kirks actually moved onto the family homestead on what is now known as Kirk Lane, where Don built their home. Don had many loves. He loved Carson. He was a dedicated family man and spent a lot of time with his wife of almost 65 years and his 4 children, 13 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren! When he was young, he and Pat sailed a lot in California. He was an avid fisherman, and he also enjoyed hunting, camping and hiking. Gardening was a big hobby, too, and he baked all kinds of breads. He had a gentle and kind demeanor, and will be missed by many!



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Other Carsonites who passed on earlier in 2016 are Eric Bissell, former owner of the Poco Loco General Store, and Lanny Hunter, a prolific Taos/Carson artist. We will miss you both!

Carson O Piñon!

BIRD SUPPLEMENT 2017 BY PAUL GREEN

Our Hummingbirds

The first of our hummingbirds will be back by the end of the March, so now is the time to check out your hummingbird feeders and your sugar supplies! You'll see four species of hummingbird in Carson, and each month between March and October we'll see different combinations of our four species.

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Hummingbirds are highly specialized birds that feed on flower nectar, insects, and other invertebrates such as spiders. Their relationships with flowering plants have shaped every aspect of their lives, from size, shape, hovering flight and migration, and many plants rely on hummingbirds for pollination. A hummingbird may need to drink more than one and a half times its body weight in nectar each day to stay alive, and can use that nectar within about 45 minutes of ingesting it.

Hummingbirds have the highest metabolic rate of any warm-blooded animal. Their heart rate can reach as high as 1,260 beats

per minute, and a breathing rate of 250 breaths per minute. During flight they can beat their wings up to 50 times a second and oxygen consumption per unit of muscle mass is about 10 times higher than in human athletes. And to conserve energy when cold and at night they can slow their metabolic rate to 1/15th of its normal rate as they enter a state of torpor.

Their unique flexible wing joint allows them to flap their wings in a figure eight pattern, allowing them to hover, fly backwards, upside down, and also long distances on migration. Most hummingbirds seen in the US spend their winters in Mexico, although with recent warming of our climate increasing numbers now spend their winter along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. By storing energy as fat, migrating Ruby-throated Hummingbirds of the eastern US can cross 500 miles of the Gulf of Mexico on a nonstop flight, but most hummingbirds migrate

across land in stages, stopping to refuel on the way. That's why we have Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds in Carson in the fall: they are fueling up for the next stage of their journey south. The longest migration of any hummingbird known is a Rufous Hummingbird that was banded in Florida and recaptured in Alaska, around 4000 miles one way, passing through New Mexico on the way.

Feed the birds

The loss of habitat that provides flowering plants for hummingbirds is one of the greatest threats to their survival, so providing food for hummingbirds around your house is good for them and great for you. The best thing to do is to establish flowering plants that produce nectar for them. Hummingbird flowers tend to red to orange in color, have a tubular form, and have a more concentrated nectar of sucrose. Flowers used by insects tend the blue end of the color



Broad-tailed Hummingbird male. Medium-sized bird, medium short straight black bill and a long tail. Brilliant grass-green to emerald-green back, with a hot pink to rose-red gorget that contrasts with white breast. Docile

spectrum, and produce a weak nectar of simple sugars (glucose and fructose). Go for perennial, drought tolerate plants, including Hummingbird Trumpet Vine (*Zauschneria latifolia*), and one of the red blooming salvias like autumn sage (*S. greggii*), pineapple sage (*S. elegans*) and the annual varieties that you can find at most retailers now. Old fashioned honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*), and all of the sturdy perennial penstemons or Agastache (hyssop) are good. Plants of the Southwest in Santa Fe has a great selection.

Providing sugar solution in a special hummingbird feeder is also good especially at the beginning and end of the season. I recommend the Best One feeder: it has a good-sized reservoir, few parts, and is easy to clean and will last you many years. Clean your feeder a couple of times a week because mold and bacteria will grow quickly in the summer. You can use a lot of sugar for these

birds, so try and buy a 50lb bag from a wholesale club to save money.

Make nectar by dissolving one cup of white sugar (don't use organic or brown, these contain iron which is toxic to hummingbirds) in between three and four cups of water, bring to the boil and allow to cool. Don't add coloring, and don't buy ready-made nectar solution from the store. Refill your feeder in the afternoon as hummingbirds have their highest need for sugar last thing at night and first thing in the morning.

Adult male hummingbirds of some species will defend a feeder, so have several feeders around your house and out of sight of one another. By late August we often have more than 200 hummingbirds in our yard at any one time and at this time they will sometimes feed six at a time at a feeder since the feeders become indefensible.

Like most birds, hummingbirds face many threats to their lives. The

biggest threats to hummingbirds apart from habitat loss are death from domestic cats and by colliding with the windows of our houses.

Carson's hummers

Carson lies in a narrow overlap band in elevation for breeding Broad-tailed and Black-chinned hummingbirds that arrive in late March and early April, flying up from their wintering grounds in Mexico. Carson also lies on the south-bound migration route for Rufous and Calliope hummingbirds that arrive here from July onwards on their way back south.

Broad-tailed hummingbirds

(*Selasphorus platycercus*) arrive here first, and they breed at elevations of between 6000 and 10,000 ft so they are approaching their lower limit here. You can hear them all summer. The silvery wing-trill of adult males, like the ringing of tiny bells, is a familiar sound around our houses during the summer. Male Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds (genus *Selasphorus*) have a distinctive wing feature during normal flight that sounds like jingling or a buzzing shrill whistle. The trill arises from air rushing through slots created by the tapered tips of the ninth and tenth primary wing feathers, creating a sound loud enough to be detected up to 100 yards. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds are mild-mannered and are dominated at feeders by all others. Since they arrive so early they survive on insects and plant sap (as made available by sapsuckers for instance) until flowers bloom. A Broad-tailed Hummingbird banded in southern Colorado holds

the longevity record for a wild hummingbird: 12 years of age.

Black-chinned Hummingbirds

(*Archilocus alexandri*) follow a few weeks later than Broad-tailed, and since they breed from around 4000ft to 7000ft are at the upper edge of their altitudinal limit here.

So by the end of April you may have these two species at your feeder. How do you tell them apart? My advice is to watch carefully and get to know each species well then when you see a different species you will know that it is different, then work on getting to know that one. Focus first on the males, look for gorget color, back color, and bill size and shape, and overall size and proportions of the bird. Then try to identify the more challenging females.

Put up your hummingbird feeder close to a window in mid-March and wait. You'll know when the Broad-tailed is around because you will hear its wing trill before you see it. First to arrive and rarer, the Broad-tailed is a medium sized bird with a medium length straight black bill and a long tail. The male has a brilliant grass green to emerald green back, with a hot pink to rose-red gorget (throat feathers) that contrasts with a white breast. Watch for the dull females also with a bright green back, white below washed with pale rufous on the sides and flanks. The throat is evenly spangled with dusky to bronze. See Plate 1. Get to know this bird when it arrives in late March and then be ready for something different!

The more numerous Black-chinned Hummingbird (Plate 2)



Black-chinned Hummingbird. Small, compact bird with a medium to long decurved bill and generally dull in color. The gorget is velvety black with a seldom seen band of blue-violet at the bottom. White of the breast extends up to around the sides of the neck as a white collar. Pumps and wags tail continuously in flight.

will arrive a few weeks after your first Broad-tailed Hummingbird. The Black-chinned is a small, compact hummingbird with a medium to long decurved bill and generally dull in color. Focus on the difference in bill shape between the Black-chinned and Broad-tailed. The gorget is velvety black with a seldom seen band of blue-violet at the bottom and the white of the breast extends up to around the sides of the neck as a white collar. Get to know the female also: dull green to golden green above, sides washed with grey-green. The throat is unmarked or with some dusky streaking. One easy aid for identification of the Black-chinned hummingbird is the way this species pumps and wags its tail continuously in flight.

If you have spent time getting to know the Broad-tailed you'll know the Black-chinned is different when it arrives in April. So you can become expert in telling these two apart pretty quickly, until July that is when more unknown birds will

show up at your feeder: Rufous and Calliope will both appear and be with you into late fall. Calliope and Rufous flew north in the early months of the year along the California coast, where flowers are in full bloom early in the year, and bred to the north of us. The Calliope breeds as far north as British Columbia, and the Rufous to coastal southeastern Alaska. By July they are done breeding and headed south again, some heading south along the Rockies to take advantage of the flowering plants here.

Calliope Hummingbird is easy to identify: it is the smallest breeding bird of the United States. The male Calliope has a short, black bill with a gorget of wine-red streaks on a white background, quite unique. It has a bright green back, creamy white below with a green wash on the sides and flanks. The female is creamy white below with a cinnamon rufous wash on the sides, flanks, and lower breast. Although



Calliope Hummingbird male. Tiny bird, short, straight black bill with a gorget of wine-red streaks on a white background. Bright green back, creamy white below with a green wash on the sides and flanks.

the smallest, the Calliope can see off most other birds at your feeder.

The **Rufous Hummingbird**

is a small hummingbird with a medium-short all-black bill with a lot of rufous in its plumage. Individuals of this species are extremely variable in color. The back can be entirely bright rufous through to half green half rufous, with a bright green crown. The underparts are creamy white with a rufous vest, and the gorget is brilliant scarlet to orange. The females are bright green above, white below, and strongly washed with rufous sides and flanks. The Rufous Hummingbird is common and very pugnacious and will try to see off all other birds at your feeder.

Of course there's much more to hummingbirds than identification: their behavior is fascinating. Each species has a distinctive mating display that involves dramatic dives. You will most likely first see this with male Black-chinned Hummingbirds who will fly high

and dive at high speed repeatedly when trying to impress a female. You'll also see them flying side to side making a great deal of noise in front of female who may be perched within a pinyon.

Once you really know your four hummers, keep an eye open for a rarity. Get to know Broad-billed, Magnificent, and Blue-throated Hummingbirds that do show up in our region, though in different habitats (low elevation wooded canyons for Broad billed, and higher elevations for Blue-throated and Magnificent). And if you are really hooked, get down to the southwestern corner of our state where 17 species have been documented.

To learn about hummingbirds by far the two best books available are:

A Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America (Peterson Field Guides) Sheri L Williamson

Hummingbirds of North America: A Photographic Guide. Steve NG Howell



Rufous Hummingbird male. Small bird with a medium-short all-black bill with a lot of rufous in its plumage, extremely variable in color. The back from entirely bright rufous through to half green half rufous, with a bright green crown. The underparts are creamy white with a rufous vest, and the gorget is brilliant scarlet to orange.