

**RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD***Selasphorus rufus*

**What to look for:** Male Rufous Hummingbirds are bright rufous (orangey-brown) and have a large orange-red **gorget** (shiny, metallic looking feathers on the throat). They make a distinctive “trill” as wind passes over tapered outer wing feathers. Females are mainly green and have a pale buffy-orange wash on their sides. They have a small gorget at the throat and white tips on their outer tail feathers. Juveniles resemble females.

**Where to look:** Upon returning from migration mid-March to April, the local Rufous Hummingbirds prefer to breed in Western Red Cedars, but they will use a wide variety of nesting sites when cedar is unavailable. They breed from sea level to elevations over 6000 ft. During migration, they may be found at over 12,000 ft elevation. Adult Rufous males begin southward migration from southern Vancouver Island in late May. By late July, most juveniles will have left, although birds continue to return down the coast from further north.

**Notes:** Rufous Hummingbirds undertake one of the most impressive migrations, with some traveling nearly 6400 km, equivalent to 78,470,000 body lengths!. Northbound, most travel up the Pacific coast, with some even breeding in Alaska! The southbound return to Mexico takes most through the Rocky Mountains. Banding stations in BC have recaptured Rufous Hummingbirds that were at least 9 years old!





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