



210

Trochilidae

## HUMMINGBIRDS

**RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD***Selasphorus rufus* L 3.5–3.75 in

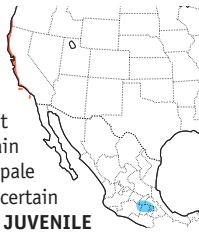
Colorful hummingbird. Extremely similar to Allen's, and separation of juveniles and females is seldom possible in the field. Extremely well-marked male Rufous (with rufous back) is more straightforward, but note that many males have green backs, similar to male Allen's! Breeding range (Mar–Jul) is a good guideline. Wings make a buzzing sound in direct flight. Tail has pointed feather tips. Sexes are dissimilar. **ADULT MALE** Has mainly rufous upperparts, including tail and tail coverts, but with variable green feathering on back and green crown. Underparts are flushed rufous, except for pale chest band. Note shining orange-red gorget seen at certain angles; in most light, throat looks dark. **ADULT FEMALE** Has green upperparts and mainly pale underparts, with rufous on flanks and spots on throat (central red spot seen at certain angles). Tail is mainly rufous with black band and white tips to outer feathers. **JUVENILE** Resembles adult female, but males soon acquire adult characters. **VOICE** Call is a sharp *tik-tik*. **STATUS AND HABITAT** Common breeding visitor (mainly Mar–Jul) to forest margins and clearings in northwest. Winters in Mexico. **OBSERVATION TIPS** Easy to see within range. Hard to identify with certainty during migration, given overlap with Allen's.



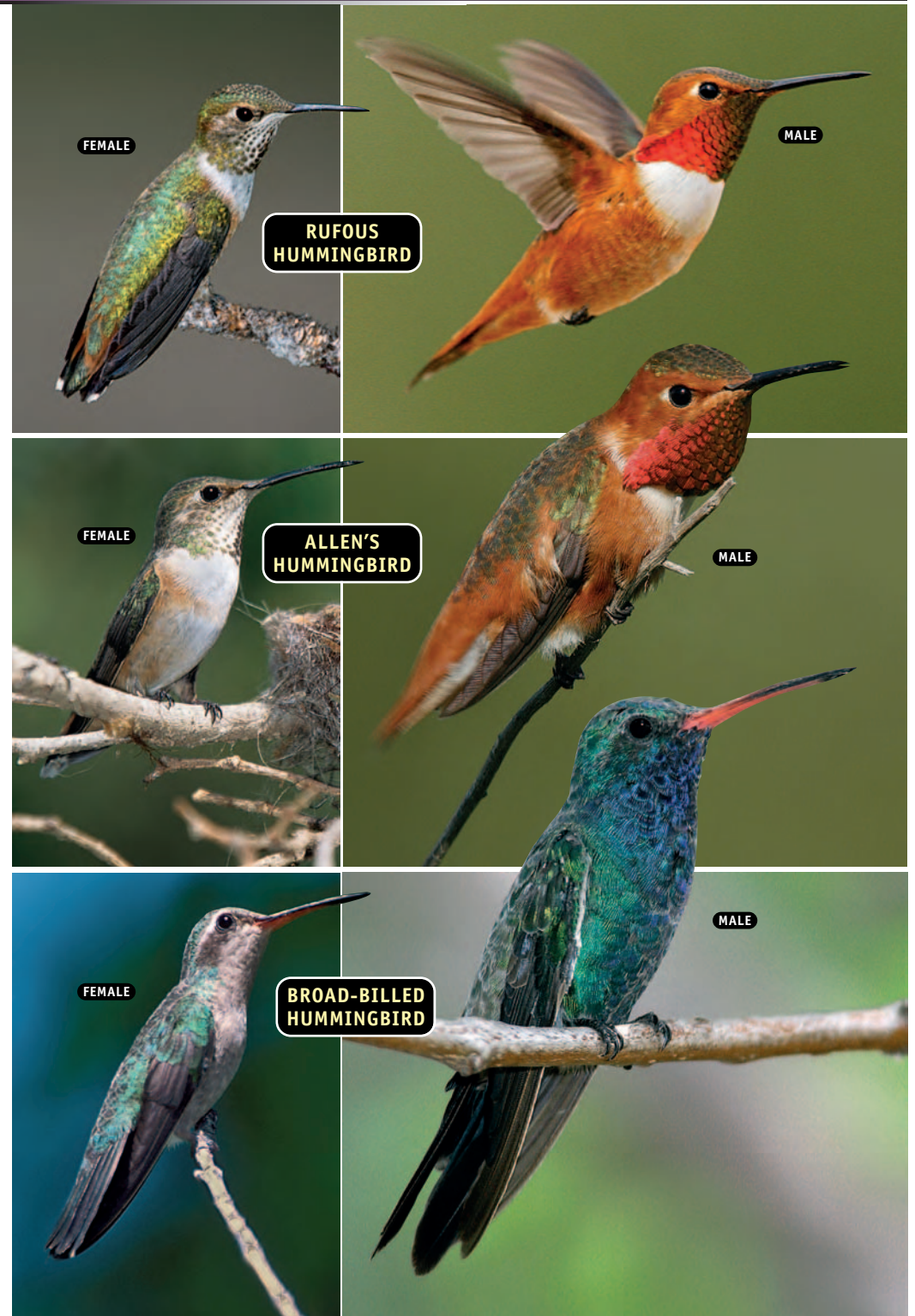
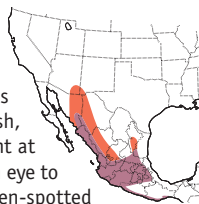
MALE

**ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** *Selasphorus sasin* L 3.5–3.75 in

Hard to separate from Rufous in many plumages, although classic male is distinctive. Breeding and winter ranges are useful guidelines in identification. Tail has pointed feather tips. Sexes are dissimilar. **ADULT MALE** Has green crown and back and rufous tail, tail coverts, and underparts, except for pale chest band. Throat often looks dark, but iridescent red gorget may be seen at certain angles in direct sunlight. **ADULT FEMALE** Has green upperparts and mainly pale underparts, with rufous on flanks and spots on throat (central red spot seen at certain angles). Tail is mainly rufous with black band and white tips to outer feathers. **JUVENILE** Resembles adult female, but males soon acquire adult characters. **VOICE** Call is a sharp *tik-tik*. **STATUS AND HABITAT** Common breeding visitor (mainly Feb–Jun) to coastal California, favoring chaparral, parks, and meadows. Most winter in Mexico, but small resident population exists in southern California. **OBSERVATION TIPS** Easy to see within range in spring, but beware confusion with migrant Rufous. Any likely looking bird seen in southern California Nov–Jan is probably Allen's.

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD***Cyanthus latirostris* L 3.5–4in

Well-marked hummingbird. Fanned tail looks broad, and at rest tail extends well beyond wingtips. In flight, male's wings produce an insectlike trill. Sexes are dissimilar. **ADULT MALE** Has green upperparts. Underparts are mainly whitish, but note green feathering on flanks. Rose-red throat gorget appears iridescent at certain angles, but otherwise looks dark. Note white eyering and white line from eye to base of lower mandible. **ADULT FEMALE** Similar, but has buff flanks and green-spotted pale throat. Fanned tail is mainly green, but with rufous bases and white tips to outer feathers and black outer band. **JUVENILE** Similar to adult female. Male acquires adult characters in winter. **VOICE** Call is a high pitched *chip-chip*. **STATUS AND HABITAT** Common summer visitor (mainly Apr–Aug) to mountains, favoring clearings and meadows. Winters in Central America. **OBSERVATION TIPS** Easy to see within range.



FEMALE

RUFOUS  
HUMMINGBIRD

MALE

FEMALE

ALLEN'S  
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MALE

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BROAD-BILLED  
HUMMINGBIRD

MALE