

**From the Desk of Old Ben's Workshop  
Anderson's La Costa Nursery Newsletter  
Published April 2020**

**Bumblebee Hummingbirds –  
Part 1**

The fact that the bumblebee hummingbird is so small definitely gets attention. The fact that it is also the smallest of all birds in the world is another reason why people are so interested in it. As you may have guessed from the name, it is only the size of a bumblebee. The entire length is less than 2 inches. The males are smaller than the females.



A bumblebee hummingbird's heartbeat is ranked second in the world of all animals. It has less feathers than any other bird. Due to the lack of feathers and small size it is quite often mistaken for a bee in its natural habitat.

Their wings can move at a rate of 80 to 200 movements per minute. The human eye sees this fast movement and thinks its an insect.

The bumblebee hummingbird lives in both Cuba and the Isle of pines. You have to know where to find them as they easily blend into their surroundings. They live in woodlands, in garden areas, and where you find lots of flowering plants.

The coloring of this hummingbird is gorgeous, but you may have to look at blown up photos of this bird in order to fully appreciate the look of it. You can tell the males from the females based on the colors you see. Both of them feature a breast area that is either white, cream, or gray.

The males show off a bright red coloring mixed with white - it is something you do not see every day. The females are a mix of blue and green. Seeing either of them for a moment leaves the onlooker in awe of what nature has to offer.

In spite of being so small they really do consume quite a bit of food. The bumblebee hummingbird will eat about half their body weight in food every day. They eat insects that are much smaller than they are. Nectar is their primary source of food. Nectar is plentiful in their natural environment.

They also drink approximately 8 times their body weight in water every day. In order to save energy, they lower their body temperature at night. During the day, their body temperature is about 104 degrees Fahrenheit which is higher than any other bird species.

If you get a chance to see a bumblebee hummingbird up close take advantage of it. This is a type of bird that very few people get to see other than on videos and photos. There has been plenty of research done and fortunately they are not in jeopardy of becoming extinct. In fact, they seem to steadily increase in numbers all the time.

**Please check out our line of birdseed and wild bird product at Anderson's La Costa Nursery, your North County supplier of Old Ben's Wild Birdseed.**