

Naturewise
6-11-98
First Column

This is a short nature column that will be submitted to this paper in response to questions that have been asked of my husband, David and I, who have been studying Nature and man's relationship with it for as long as we can remember. While we are interested mostly in birds, we invite questions and information on animals-- animal and bird behavior--anything that will be interesting, informative and educational to other people.

We are members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and have been keeping records for this organization for over thirty years. Ornithology is just a big word for the study of birds.

As most people know some birds nest here but migrate to lower U S, Central and South America to spend the winter while others remain the full year. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are migratory and the people who have feeders out know they have been back since the first of April in full force. If you are interested in having these tiny, but very hardy little, beautiful birds around--buy a hummingbird feeder--fill with sugar water and hang outside, preferably in the shade, and wait! This sugar water is made of one cup water and 1/4 cup of sugar. Boil one minute and cool. There is NO need to use red food coloring and it could be harmful to the birds. Red is a color that is attractive to hummingbirds but all feeders have some red about them anyway. Feeders should be kept clean.

Future columns will deal with your questions or information and comments, which I will try to answer, plus one bird or animal profile and its position in nature in our area. Please call 931-864-3236 if you have questions or have anything to report.

Robbie Hassler
1455 Hassler Rd.
Byrdstown, TN 38549