

[Hummingbirds: Calls / Vocalizations and Sounds](#)

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Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)

Male

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- [Finding a Nest or Chicks](#) (on the ground, injured or orphaned)
- [EXTREME Metabolism and Survival and Flight Adaptions](#) - Amazing Facts
- [Feeding and Attracting Hummers To Your Garden](#)



Tufted Coquette (*Lophornis ornatus*)

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Amazilia Hummingbird
(*Amazilia amazilia*)

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Sounds / Vocalizations

Hummers produce two types of sounds - vocalizations and the sounds their wings or tails make.

Vocalizations

Hummingbirds have relatively weak vocal cords and most species only make chirping and chattering sounds.

They have different calls / songs for when they are excited, defending their territory, wooing potential mates or simply when flying from flower to flower. Some hummingbird enthusiasts noted that they know what a hummer is doing just by the sound they are making at the time.

The males are generally more vocal than the females.

Sounds the tails or wings make

Hummers were named for the low-pitched humming sound they make through the rapid movement of their wings, when they are in flight. The sounds differ depending on how fast it beats its wings.



Bahama Woodstar (Calliphlox evelynae) - Male

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The males of some species rely on their tail feathers to make chirping sounds during a high-speed display dive to attract females.

Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, conducted by two students (lead author Christopher J. Clark, a UC Berkeley graduate student in the Department of Integrative Biology), showed that the outer tail feathers vibrate like a reed in a clarinet. The hummingbird's split-second tail spread at dive speed produces a loud, brief burst that sounds like a chirp or beep.

Hummers that are known to make such "tail-feather chirps" are the [Anna's Hummingbirds](#) (and its relatives), the [Ruby-throats](#), the [Black-chinned Hummingbirds](#), the [Allen's Hummingbirds](#), the [Costa's Hummingbirds](#), the

[Rufous Hummingbirds](#), the Woodstar Hummingbirds, and the Cuban [Bee Hummingbirds](#) (the smallest birds in the world). (Ref.: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/01/080129191358.htm>)

Metabolism and Survival and Flight Adaptions - Amazing Facts

Species Research by [Sibylle Johnson](#)

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