



Photo by Brian E. Kushner

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds *and trumpet vine flowers*

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds love the flowers of trumpet vines, perhaps because these showy blooms offer more nectar than most other flowers. Each bloom produces nectar for just 20–30 hours. As the hummingbirds zip from flower to flower, they carry yellow pollen on their heads.

Hummingbirds are the trumpet vine's best pollinator. They transfer 10 times more pollen per visit than bumblebees do. Where hummingbirds visit more often, trumpet vines bear more fruit. Thus, the birds and blooms perpetuate one another—the flowers give sustenance, and the hummers help generate the next crop of flowers.

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