

## Making Homes for Wildlife on the Move: Greater Fort Lauderdale Flyway Cities Coalition Where Flyways and Waterways Meet

**H**abitat for migratory birds and resident wildlife is rapidly disappearing across our continent.

More than 800 species of birds including the Ruby-throated Hummingbird fly across North America to spend the winter in Mexico or Central America. It's a long trip and some of the usual spots where they stopped to rest and eat in past years no longer exist. Development and pollution have made the trip harder for them.

Today civic groups, government agencies and citizens who care about wildlife are joining together to address the problem in the U.S. and in South Florida. **The Greater Fort Lauderdale Flyway Cities Coalition**, part of an emerging national movement facilitated by National Wildlife Federation®, will work to improve and expand habitat for migratory and resident wildlife here in Broward County. This includes freshwater and coastal wetlands as well as private and public lands.



### Which wildlife will benefit?

Together, we can protect and restore habitat for the many ruby-throated hummingbirds and other wildlife including threatened (T) or endangered (E) species who rely on our land and waters for their temporary or permanent homes, including:

- ◆ American Kestrel (T)
- ◆ Bald Eagle (T)
- ◆ Broadwing Hawk
- ◆ Green and Leatherback Sea Turtles (E)
- ◆ Loggerhead Sea Turtle (T)
- ◆ Monarch Butterfly
- ◆ Painted Bunting
- ◆ West Indian Manatee (E)
- ◆ Wood Stork (E)



H. Cheek

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

### Creating a habitat for wildlife

Whether you live in the suburbs, the city, or a rural area, you can create a haven where wildlife can rest or live. And you'll enjoy watching them, too!

Just start with the five components every habitat needs:

- ◆ Food
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Shelter
- ◆ Places for wildlife to raise their young
- ◆ Sustainable gardening practices

**Greater Fort Lauderdale  
Flyway Cities Coalition:  
First in the  
Atlantic Flyway Corridor**

### Here's how to get involved

Start helping wildlife right at home when you:

1. Create a habitat for wildlife. Consider the hummingbird habitat ideas offered here.
2. Use wildlife-friendly gardening practices.
3. Sign up for a restoration project. You'll be hearing more about these in coming months.
4. Help spread the word! Get involved in educating your community about the importance of quality land and water habitats for wildlife.
5. Speak up! Attend community planning meetings and write letters to local, regional and state officials.

## *Making Homes for Wildlife on the Move:* Greater Fort Lauderdale Flyway Cities Coalition

### Hummingbird Fun Facts

Did you know . . . ?

- ◆ Most hummingbirds winter between southern Mexico and northern Panama.
- ◆ Ruby-throated hummingbirds winter in South Florida from September through March.
- ◆ Hummingbirds are solitary birds and usually return to the same location each winter.
- ◆ Hummingbirds travel about 20 miles a day until they reach their nesting place.
- ◆ To survive the trip, they need food, shelter and pesticide-free habitats along the migration route.
- ◆ The hummingbird is the smallest bird in the state, weighing about 1/4 ounce or the weight of a penny.
- ◆ It can hover, fly up or down, and is the only bird that flies backwards.
- ◆ The male hummingbird displays a bright ruby-red throat while the female's greenish brown coloring helps her to hide with her nest.
- ◆ Its heart pumps 1,260 beats per minute.

#### For more information

Broward County, Florida: [www.broward.org](http://www.broward.org)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:  
<http://myfwc.com/wof/birdinglinks.htm>

Fort Lauderdale, Florida: [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)

NatureScape Broward program and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Flyway Cities Coalition:  
[www.broward.org/naturescape](http://www.broward.org/naturescape)

National Wildlife Federation  
[www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

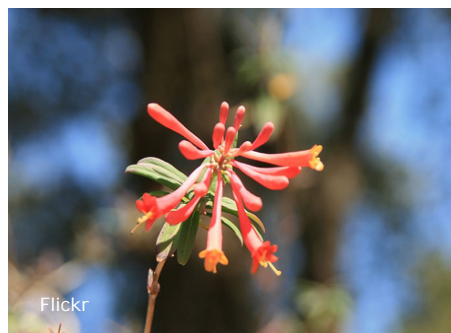
Greater Fort Lauderdale Flyway Cities Coalition:  
[www.flywaycities.org/ftlauderdale](http://www.flywaycities.org/ftlauderdale)

#### About NatureScape Broward

NatureScape Broward is a Broward County initiative designed to help residents, municipalities, businesses and schools create and maintain sustainable landscapes that conserve water, protect water quality and provide habitat for native and migratory wildlife. Broward County is home to the only Certified Community Wildlife Habitats in Florida and has over 2,400 certified yards! NatureScape Broward hosts annual Habitat Steward trainings and to date, has trained over 120 Habitat Stewards.

### Ready to plant? Go native!

Planning or expanding your wildlife habitat? Get acquainted with the native plants that are best for the birds, butterflies and other wildlife.



Coral Honeysuckle

Native plants play an important role in the local ecosystem. They are adapted to the climate, soils, rainfall, and availability of pollinators and seed dispersers in a certain region. For this reason, native plants usually require little maintenance and provide welcome food and shelter for wildlife.

#### Hummingbird Native Favorites

Ruby-throated hummingbirds feed by day on nectar from wildflower blossoms and the flowers of many species of shrubs and vines. Some of their favorites here are:

- ◆ Coral bean
- ◆ Coral honeysuckle
- ◆ Firebush
- ◆ Milkweed
- ◆ Tropical Sage
- ◆ Trumpet Vine
- ◆ Horsemint



Trumpet vine

Many well-meaning residents put out hummingbird feeders. The South Florida heat can easily spoil the sugar solution and cause botulism, which can be fatal to the birds. Give them sustainable food by planting native plants. They are very attracted to red or orange tubular flowers.

Although nectar is their primary food source, ruby-throated hummers also eat many insects such as mosquitoes, gnats, fruit flies and small bees, as well as tree sap.

#### Hummingbird Habitats

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are primarily woodland birds, most often found in eastern deciduous and pine forests, as well as tropical deciduous forests, gardens, orchards, old fields, citrus groves, scrub communities and hedgerows.