

7 Tips *for* Multi-flash Hummer Photos

© 2021 ~ Jeff Parker / Explore in Focus™

1) Set up in shade.

Locating your set-up in the shade helps diminish ambient light. Find a spot that's shaded at least part of the day. Get the hummers used to feeding there before setting up your background, etc. (*Give it a few days.*)

2) Background.

A background keeps multi-flash hummingbird images from turning out black. A matte finish cuts down on reflections & glare. I use Coroplast cut to a minimum of 24"x36", this is the largest size I can fit into a suitcase for traveling. To add variety to my images, I clip on printed backgrounds. Place your background 2 ½ to 6 feet behind the feeder.

3) Don't focus on the feeder.

Keep the feeder there to continue attracting the birds, but put it near a bottom corner of your background. Your goal's to photograph the birds as they zoom to the feeder not while they're on it. Tape closed all but two feeder holes to help direct traffic.

4) Flash #1: background.

Setup your background flash about 30 inches in front of the background, about mid-height of the background & at a bit of an angle. Set it to its widest setting.

5) Flash #2 & 3: target zone.

Consider the target zone the area where you want to birds when you click the shutter—ideally, 4-6 inches from the feeder. Place two flashes about 12 inches to left & right of target zone & 18-22 inches out from background (*toward you*).

6) Flashes: settings.

Once you have your flashes in position, set them to manual mode & 1/16 to 1/32 power. If your flashes have a way to disable the sleep mode, do so.

7) Take test shots.

For camera settings (*in Manual mode*) start with ISO 800, shutter speed of 1/200, & aperture of f/20. Take a test shot that includes the feeder. You should have some flashing highlights on the feeder. Use your aperture to adjust exposure.

* * * * *

Award-winning naturalist photographer, Jeff Parker, leads friendly & informative photo tours & workshops focused on the flora & fauna of North, Central, & South America.

Call (512) 378-3355 ~ or ~

Click www.ExploreinFocus.com to learn more

