

THINGS HUMMING AT SENIOR COMPLEX

Sweet treats attract tiny birds to delight of many residents

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NEW HARTFORD — Seniors aren't the only ones living at Canterbury Village. Hummingbirds now call the age-restricted apartment complex home, too.

Residents in 10 of the 24 units over the past several years have purchased hummingbird feeders — bird feeders that dispense a sugary fluid rather than seeds — and have sat back and watched the population climb.

On Thursday, six of the birds zipped around the complex from feeder to feeder: the males with bright green feathers and green and white at their throats, and the females in a slate gray shade.

"They're amazing. There's a whole community of them out there," said tenant Ruth Rubino, who purchased the first feeder with her late husband, John, seven years ago. "They

chase each other. It's fun to watch them."

Canterbury Village owner Tim Bobroske said the neighbors here are a tight-knit clan. The apartments each feature their own porches and yards, and residents are allowed to decorate as they see fit.

Most of them choose comfortable chairs, pointed toward their personal gardens of colorful flowers and plantings. But after the success Rubino saw with her hummingbird feeder, other residents started buying them to accent their gardens, too.

Bobroske said there's times when three or four birds are lined up at feeders; sometimes they appear to fight each other to get at the food. No one could estimate exactly how many of the hummingbirds live here, but Rubino said she's begun to recognize the color patterns on the birds and insists some come back year to year.



A female ruby-throated-hummingbird hovers near a feeder at the Canterbury Village senior housing complex in New Hartford on Thursday. Residents at the senior housing complex have installed hummingbird feeders, which have attracted the small birds, which feed there every day.

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