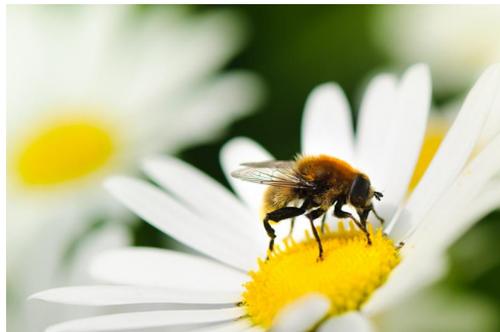


# Seeing in Color



If you like red, be glad you're not a bee.



## Bees

While the human eye can view the rainbow of colors, bees (and other insects) see a different range of colors, and red is not among them. Bees tend to prefer white, blue and yellow flowers. They eventually do find some red flowers, although these

flowers are difficult for the bee to detect. And instead of red, bees have the benefit of being able to see ultra-violet light! They can see patterns in flowers completely invisible to us!



## Birds

A hummingbird is very glad he is not a bee; hummingbirds are drawn to red over any other color.

Most birds have 2-3 times sharper eyesight than humans. Because they have four types of photoreceptors (we only have three types) in their eyes, birds' ability to see color is also heightened in comparison. Nocturnal birds, however have fewer cones (color receptor cells in eyes) as nighttime offers few

benefits for being able to see in color. Some birds can also see polarized and UV light.

Birds with red or chestnut feathers are more likely to have cataracts! Click [HERE](#) to read this neat article from the BBC to find out why.



## Mammals

Primates seem to be the exception to the rule when it comes to color vision in mammals. Most mammals have only two types of color receptors, while primates including humans have three.

Dogs are the classic example of a mammal with the ability to see color but in a lesser capacity than humans. Man's best friend can only see grayish brown, dark and light yellow, grayish yellow, and dark and light blue.

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