



Hummingbird

Picture It!

Check out these pictures of hummingbirds and their habitat!



Images by Sarah Rayner

Hummingbird

What's the gist?

- They are the smallest migrating bird.
- They don't migrate in flocks like other species, and they typically travel alone for up to 500 miles at a time.
- The name, hummingbird, comes from the humming noise their wings make as they beat so fast.
- Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards.
- Hummingbirds have no sense of smell. While they can't sniff out feeders, they do have good color vision.
- Some birds like the Ruby-throated Hummingbird prefer orange or red flowers. Despite this, red dye should not be used in nectar as it could harm the birds. Instead, plant naturally red or orange flowers or use feeders that have red coloring in their structure.
- The average weight of a hummingbird is less than a nickel.
- Their tiny legs are only used for perching and moving sideways while perched. They can't walk or hop.
- Hummingbirds drink the nectar found in feeders by moving their tongue in and out about 13 times per second. They can consume up to double their body weight in a day.
- The average number of eggs laid by female hummingbirds is only two. These eggs have been found in nests smaller than a half dollar and compare in size to a jellybean or a coffee bean. Some species, like the Black-chinned Hummingbird make their nests with plant down, spider silk, and other natural resources that can expand as their babies grow after hatching.
- A flock of hummingbirds can be referred to as a bouquet, a glittering, a hover, a shimmer, or a tune.
- There are over 330 species of hummingbirds in North and South America.

Learning Links

Take a look at these materials to further your experience!

Read a story, Listen to a story, Take a tour here: <https://bit.ly/30v3yAQ>

The spring migration of Ruby-throated hummingbirds has begun. Watch this video about these amazing birds to learn more about them. Ruby-throated Hummingbird facts: the only hummingbird to breed in the eastern US | Animal Fact Files <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IpE8NaGVKA>

Click on this link for more information on feeding hummingbirds and plants that hummingbirds prefer for nectar: <http://www.braudubon.org/education/feeding-hummingbirds>

Activity Corner

Check out these awesome activities for an enriching learning experience!

Make a Hummingbird Feeder:

<https://az.audubon.org/conservation/make-hummingbird-feeder>

Make a Hummingbird Puppet:

<https://az.audubon.org/hummingbird-puppet>

Make a Hummingbird Mask:

<https://az.audubon.org/feather-mask>