

SMARTYPANTS

Hummingbirds

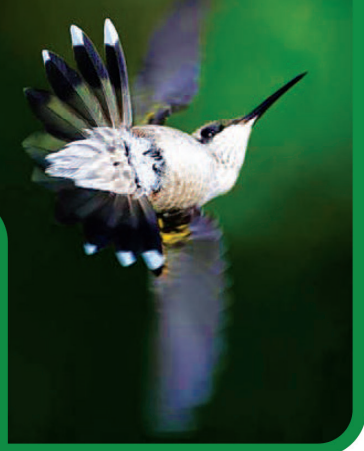


Do you know what the world's smallest bird is? This bird weighs about the same as a nickel and lays eggs the size of a pea. The bird is named for the sound its wings make when it is flying. This sound is made because the bird flaps its wings more than 200 times each second. Have you guessed yet? I am talking about the HUMMINGBIRD. A nickname for the hummingbird is hummer.

There are more than 300 different hummingbirds that live only in the western hemisphere. They live from Alaska down to Central America. They normally live in Mexico and Central America during the winter and migrate north during the warmer months. Some migrate all the way across the Gulf of Mexico flying as much as 500 miles (804 kilometers) in one day. They do this for two main reasons. The first is the availability of food in the winter and the second is that hummingbirds have fewer feathers than other birds and it is harder for them to stay warm.



These tiny flyers are like acrobats. Other birds can only fly in one direction but the hummingbird can fly upside-down, forward, sideways, and backward. The hummingbird can also hover in the same place. This means that this little bird can flap its wings so fast that it seems to float in the air at times. This amazing ability to fly comes in handy because hummingbirds are the MMA fighters of the bird world. Male hummingbirds are very territorial. They are so territorial that they have been known to try to fight their own reflection in a window.

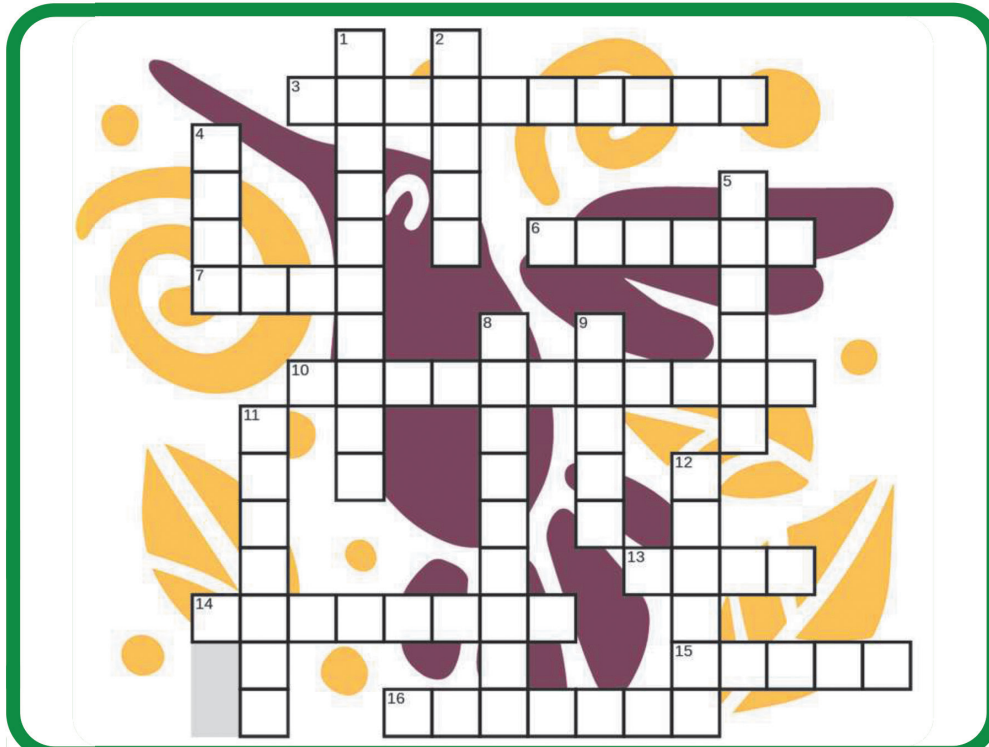


Hummingbirds live primarily off of nectar. Nectar is mostly sugar and is naturally made by plants. They feed during the day and prefer brightly colored flowers. Some people even make artificial nectar using water and sugar and put it in feeders near their house so they can watch these tiny birds eat. Hummingbirds eat half their body weight in nectar every day. That would be like an adult human drinking 900 to 1000 cokes a day. That's a lot of sugar. Don't think that is all they eat though. Hummers also eat insects. One of their favorite meals happens to be spiders.



What kind of bird always forgets the words to a song?

A Hummingbird



- Across**
- 3. Something, such as light, radiant heat, sound, or an image, that is reflected
 - 6. Something that supplies food
 - 7. To move wings up or down
 - 10. An area often including a nesting or denning site and a variable foraging range that is occupied and defended by an animal
 - 13. Warm-blooded vertebrates (vertebrates have backbones) and the only animals with feathers.
 - 14. One that is preferred above all others
 - 15. To remain floating, suspended, or fluttering in the air.
 - 16. Someone who is skilled in feats of balance and agility in gymnastics.

- Down**
- 1. A half of the Earth, especially one of the halves above and below the equator
 - 2. To be suspended in or move through space as if supported by a liquid
 - 4. A portion of the sea, that is almost surrounded by land except one narrow opening
 - 5. Often inside flowers, where it serves to attract pollinators such as certain insects and birds.
 - 8. A measure of length, being a thousand meters. It is equal to 3,280.84 feet
 - 9. A type of energy made by vibrations
 - 11. To move from one country, place, or locality to another
 - 12. How heavy something is

Read more about these incredible creatures and look for these books in your school or town library!

Tiny Bird. A Hummingbird's Amazing Journey
by Robert Burleigh

About Hummingbirds
by Cathryne Sill

The Magic Hummingbird: A Hopi Folktale
by Michael Lomatuway'ma



Scan me to learn even more!



R F D N U O S W F L A P U O L
 C E N I Q R F F L O A T D C H
 A V T N E C T A R H O H D I F
 C V U E R A N V J M T U N X A
 U H A C M E H O V E R M O E V
 A L R I I O Y I R E H M I M O
 C E F G L U L R D E T I T E R
 R K Y I E A I I M A F N C T I
 O C L W D T B I K J F G E A T
 B I F H O R S I N W M B L R E
 A N M R I P I V L R Q I F G L
 T E I G H Q X B B I R R E I T
 C A U E R E D E E F T D R M B
 L L R E Q A K S A L A Y P L W
 F E P W E I G H T S F V B F W

- ACROBAT
- ALASKA
- AVAILABILITY
- BIRD
- FAVORITE
- FEEDER
- FLAP
- FLOAT
- FLY
- GULF
- HEMISPHERE
- HOVER
- HUMMINGBIRD
- KILOMETER
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- MIGRATE
- NECTAR
- NICKEL
- REFLECTION
- SOUND
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- WEIGHT



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