

HUMMINGBIRDS



Kingdom: **Animalia**
 Phylum: **Chordata**
 Class: **Aves**
 Subclass: **Neornithes**

Infraclass: **Neognathae**
 (unranked): **Cypselomorphae**
 Order: **Apodiformes**
 Family: **Trochilidae**



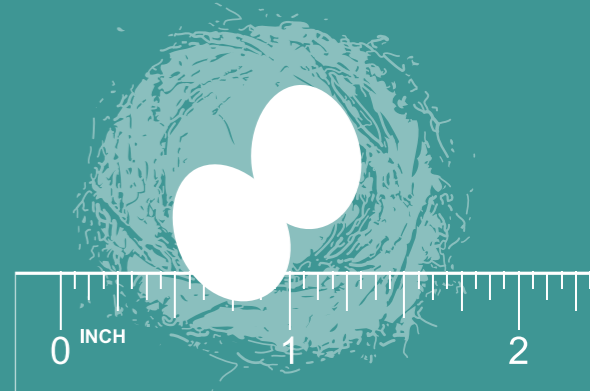
Hummingbirds are found all through the Americas – from southeastern Alaska to southern Chile.

Hummingbird brains are approximately 4.2% of their body weight—the largest ratio of all bird species.

Hummingbird eyes are large and have more rods and cones than human eyes, allowing the birds to see colors better than we do as well as ultraviolet light.

Hummingbirds have virtually no sense of smell.

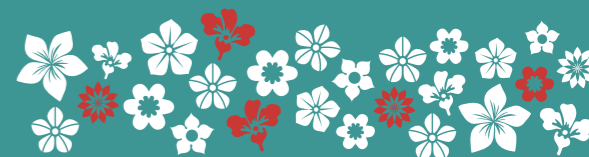
Males often have iridescent feathers around their throats that help attract mates.



Hummingbirds are the smallest of all warm-blooded animals.

Hummingbird wings are unlike those of any other bird. Able to move in a figure eight pattern, they are built for optimum speed and agility and gain lift from both sides, allowing the birds to hover and fly backwards and even briefly upside down.

Hummingbirds have long, thin bills that allow them to reach deep inside flowers.



Hummingbirds visit over 1,000 flowers in a single day.

Normal-sized hummingbirds have about 940 feathers—that's more feathers per square inch of their body than any other bird.

Hummingbird tongues are long and grooved in the shape of a "W". Hairs on the tip of the tongue help collect nectar which they can lap up at a rate of 13 licks per second.



When hummingbirds sleep, they go into a kind of hibernation called torpor. Body temperature, oxygen consumption, and heart rate drops, and they cannot react to changes in their environment or predation threats.

Hummingbird hearts beat about 250 beats per minute at rest and about 1,260 beats per minute in flight.

Hummingbirds breathe an average of 250 times per minute. Breathing and taking in air helps to cool off their bodies.

Hummingbird bones are porous and in some cases hollow, so that the birds can be as lightweight as possible.

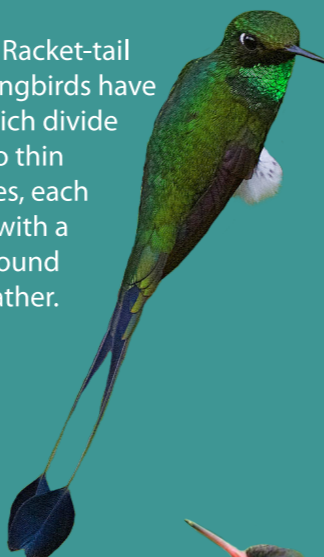
Hummingbirds have weak feet which they don't use to walk but do use to perch.

SPECIES There are nearly 350 different species of hummingbirds



Giant Hummingbirds are the largest species of hummingbird, weighing about .6 ounces (18 grams).

Booted Racket-tail Hummingbirds have tails which divide into two thin branches, each tipped with a single round blue feather.



The only birds in the world whose bills are longer than their bodies are the Sword-billed Hummingbirds.



Plovercrests are known for their unique crest, which features long blue feathers pointing out from the back of their heads.



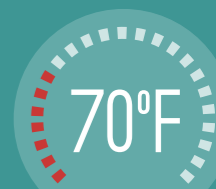
Found only in Cuba, Bee Hummingbirds are the smallest bird in the world, weighing only .06 ounces (1.8 grams).



White-tipped Sicklebills have downward-curved bills that are adapted to feed off the heliconia flowers found in Costa Rica and Peru.



Hummingbird body temperature when awake



Hummingbird body temperature while sleeping



Contrary to myth, hummingbirds do not ride on the backs of geese during migration. Hummingbirds must make this journey on their own!