HUMMINGBIRDS

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Hummingbirds have virtually no sense of smell.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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

SPECIES

Hummingbird body temperature when awake

Hummingbird body temperature while sleeping

105°F

70°F