



Student Activity

Hummingbird Adaptations in Dazzling Motion **NATURE Science Education Series**

Vocabulary:

diversity, warm-blooded, aerial agility, repertoire, choreography, avian, nectar, evolutionary bond, datura, reproduction, aggressive hunters, lethal predator, metabolism, infrared, torpor, foraging, extreme environments, iridescent feathers, pigments, emit, regurgitate, fledged, banding data, genetic variation, ecotourism

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Why do hummingbirds fascinate most people?

How many varieties of hummingbirds are there? What are some of their distinguishing features?

Considering their size and lack of defenses, how are hummingbirds able to survive as successfully as they do?

Do hummingbirds migrate? Are they found all over the world or only in certain locations?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

What adaptation allows hummingbirds to feed on the nectar of flowers? How do hummingbirds help flowers survive and propagate?

What adaptations allow hummingbirds to survive in extreme environments, for example, at altitudes of 12,000 feet? How are they able to travel thousands of miles in their yearly migrations?

Why do hummingbirds have to eat so much each day? How do they supplement their nectar diet? How do they survive overnight when they can't eat?

What species of hummingbird, found only in Peru, is endangered? How do wildlife biologists plan to save this bird from extinction?

Further Activities:

Further investigate ecotourism programs that are saving endangered species.

Find out what species of hummingbirds thrive where you live, or closest to where you live. Investigate their habits and discover their migration routes.

Investigate flowers and feeders that attract hummingbirds.

Further investigate the varieties of nests hummingbirds build, and how they care for their fledglings.