

Hummingbird – the hum of nature

The hummingbird, which looks like a miniature helicopter and has the incredible ability to stop and hover in its flight, has always fascinated humans.

Flying so fast that one cannot even see their wings moving, these birds can easily manoeuvre from flower to flower. Because the hummingbirds use enormous amounts of energy, they have a high rate of metabolism. Consequently, they have to take in enough food to equal more than half of their body weight each day. Hummingbirds eat nectar from blooms of plants and insects they catch by stopping in mid-flight.

People, who want to attract the “miniature helicopters” into their yards, should put an artificial humming bird feeder filled with a mixture of sugar and water in their gardens. They have to be careful and change the mixture every few days in order not to poison the birds. The feeder should be washed with water only; dishwashing detergent or soap must not be used. To attract the hummingbirds people can also plant flowers, honeysuckle and fuchsia being two of the flowers that appeal to them.

Hummingbirds are territorial and will chase away other birds from their area, even if they are bigger from them. They do appear to fear neither other birds nor humans. They will however stay away from bees and wasps.