



NATURE



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**THIRTEEN's *Nature* enters the enchanting world of
hummers in *Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air*,
January 10, 2010 on PBS**

***Nature Online* (pbs.org/nature) features full-length streaming
episodes and other avian wonders.**

Hummingbirds represent one of nature's most interesting paradoxes – they are the tiniest of birds, yet they qualify as some of the toughest and most energetic creatures on the planet. New knowledge gained from scientists currently making great breakthroughs in hummingbird biology make this a perfect time to focus on these shimmering, flashing feathered jewels of the natural world. Utilizing latest high-speed and infra-red camera technology, ***Nature*** takes viewers inside the extraordinary universe of these brilliant birds in ***Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air***, premiering **Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 8 p.m. (ET)** on PBS (check local listings). Combined with stunning cinematography and high-tech slow-motion footage of hummingbirds' remarkable aerial abilities, the film captures the world of hummingbirds as we never have before. Academy Award-winning actor F. Murray Abraham narrates. ***Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air*** will be available for streaming on ***Nature Online*** (pbs.org/nature), along with more than 30 other full-length programs.

Nature is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG – one of America's most prolific and respected public media providers.

"Hummingbirds live life in the fast lane," said Fred Kaufman, Series Executive Producer. "They're not only visually striking but highly creative in their survival strategies. That's beauty and brains in one tiny package. ***Nature*** always strives to bring viewers the most amazing natural phenomena on earth. So get ready to be dazzled by these ballerinas in the air."

The smallest of all warm-blooded creatures, hummingbirds live only in the Americas. Many found in North America are seasonal migrants who can live up to 12 years. With nearly 350 different species, these little Americans owe their genetic diversity to their unusual diet of nectar, extreme metabolism and incredible survival instincts. They are ingenious adaptors and expert aerial predators. Their ability to hover is unique in the avian world. Other evolutionary engineering include the seemingly variety of bills naturally designed to hunt insects and to feed from complicated blossoms with secret nectar chambers. It's no wonder they are the essential pollinators for over 8000 plant species.

To keep up with their high metabolism, these delicate diners need to eat voraciously – more than half their body weight every day, in nectar alone. At night to conserve energy and to avoid starving in their sleep, hummers enter into torpor, a kind of hibernation in which the rate of their heartbeat slows down dramatically and their body temperature drops by more than half.

Beyond their unique eating and sleeping behaviors, male hummingbirds have elevated the art of speed dating with elaborate split-second courtship displays and twinkling flashes of iridescent feathers to entice females.

Choosing a safe neighborhood takes on extra meaning when it comes to survival of a species. Some hummers wisely nest near raptors that prey on hummingbird predators. However, even their best survival strategies may not be enough. Many species are now facing extinction due to loss of their habitat and food sources. But not surprisingly, eco-tourism may be their saving grace. People flock to wherever the delightful little dazzlers fly. After all, who can resist the enchanting world of hummingbirds?

Visit **Nature Online** (pbs.org/nature) to watch previous programs and get updates about the series. Viewers can sound off about issues explored on **Nature**, take polls, and share animal photos with the **Nature** community.

Nature has won nearly 600 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities, and environmental organizations – including 10 Emmys, three Peabodys and the first award given to a television program by the Sierra Club. Most recently, the series won a Peabody Award for *Silence of the Bees* and received two Emmy nominations for *Crash: A Tale of Two Species* and *White Falcon, White Wolf*.

Nature's Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air is a production of Coneflower Productions and THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG. Produced by Ann Johnson Prum. **Nature** is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG for PBS. Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer. William Grant is Executive-in-Charge. Major corporate support for **Nature** is provided by Canon U.S.A., Inc. Additional support is provided by the nation's public television stations.

Nature Online (pbs.org/nature) is the award-winning web companion to the broadcast series and is spearheading **Nature's** distribution to new media platforms. At **Nature Online**, visitors can stream full episodes of **Nature** programs, watch behind-the-scenes video exclusives with filmmakers and producers (also available at iTunes), view program excerpts (also available on YouTube), and find fun interactive content, teacher lesson plans, and more. Join **Nature** on Facebook ([Facebook.com/PBSNature](https://www.facebook.com/PBSNature)) and follow the series on Twitter ([Twitter.com/PBSNature](https://twitter.com/PBSNature)) to keep up with the latest videos, photos, program alerts and more.

About WNET.ORG

New York public media company WNET.ORG is a pioneering provider of television and web content. The parent of THIRTEEN, WLIW21 and Creative News Group, WNET.ORG brings such acclaimed broadcast series and websites as [Worldfocus](#), [Nature](#), [Great Performances](#), [American Masters](#), [Charlie Rose](#), [Wide Angle](#), [Secrets of the Dead](#), [Religion & Ethics Newsweekly](#), [Visions](#), [Consuelo Mack WealthTrack](#), [Wild Chronicles](#), [Miffy and Friends](#), and [Cyberchase](#) to national and international audiences. Through its wide range of channels and platforms, WNET.ORG serves the entire New York City metro area with unique local productions, broadcasts and innovative educational and cultural projects. In all that it does, WNET.ORG pursues a single, overarching goal – to create media experiences of lasting significance for New York, America and the world. For more information, visit www.wnet.org.

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