

Hummingbirds

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DA: Well, again, I think to me it does keep coming back to hovering flight. That's the most magical thing about them. I also think their maneuverability is something that is a corollary of that. The ability to fly slow, it turns out, is also something that tends to confer the ability to fly fast, which I know is a bit counterintuitive. But they are really—they do have this just absolutely magical flight ability. But at the same time, I think that's probably fairly well captured by the literature. The thing that maybe isn't captured—people do sometimes report it—**[00:30]** but I think is an experience that many of us have had that I hope future generations can understand, is that the birds are also very curious, and they turn out to be very curious about humans. So I can't tell you how many people have told me a story of they were walking through the forest and a hummingbird just came up to them and basically hovered right in front of them—maybe just 20-30 centimeters away—staring at them, and they seem to come right up next to them, almost just looking around their face, studying their face, or their hat, **[01:00]** or their backpack, or something like that before they flew away. And I think they have this really—they almost seem like you're touching nature when they come in and they're that curious about you and the things you're carrying. I hope that that experience is something that future generations can appreciate as well.

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