

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

## Humming Birds

The most beautiful humming birds are found in the West Indies and South America. The crest of the tiny head of one of these birds shines like a sparkling crown of colored light. The shades of color that adorn its breast are equally brilliant. As the bird flits from one flower to another, it looks more like a bright flash of sunlight than it does a living being.

You ask, why are they called humming birds? It is because they make a soft, humming noise by the rapid motion of their wings—a motion so rapid, that as they fly, you can hardly see that they have wings.

One day when walking in the woods, I found the nest of one of the smallest humming birds. It was about half the size of a very small hen's egg, and it was attached to a twig no thicker than a steel knitting needle. It seemed to have been made of cotton fibers and was covered with the softest bits of leaf and bark. It had two eggs in it, and each was about as large as a small sugarplum.

When you approach the spot where one of these birds has built its nest, you need to be careful. The mother bird will dart at you and try to peck you. Its sharp beak may hurt you. The poor little thing knows no other way of defending its young, and instinct teaches it that you might carry off its nest if you find it.



**Questions:**

1. Why does the author say the hummingbird looks like a “bright flash of sunlight?”

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2. Why do you think it is hard to find a hummingbird's nest?

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3. What might happen if you try to take the nest of a hummingbird?

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4. How do you think the author feels about hummingbirds?

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**Answers:**

1. Why does the author say the hummingbird looks like a “bright flash of sunlight?”

The hummingbird is colorful and as it moves very fast it looks like a bright flash of sunlight when it flies.

2. Why do you think it is hard to find a hummingbird's nest?

The hummingbird will want to keep its young safe, so the bird will hide its nest.

3. What might happen if you try to take the nest of a hummingbird?

The hummingbird will peck at you when you try to take the nest away.

4. How do you think the author feels about hummingbirds?

I think the author really likes hummingbirds.