

# Primarily for U.S.\*

**Grades K-3**

A DeKalb County School System • Fernbank Science Center Publication

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 6 SUMMER 1994

Understanding Science\*

ISSN 0742-6518

## A HUMMINGBIRD COLORING BOOK



The ruby-throated hummingbirds are back for the summer! All winter they lived in Mexico or Central America. Now, many have migrated to North America.

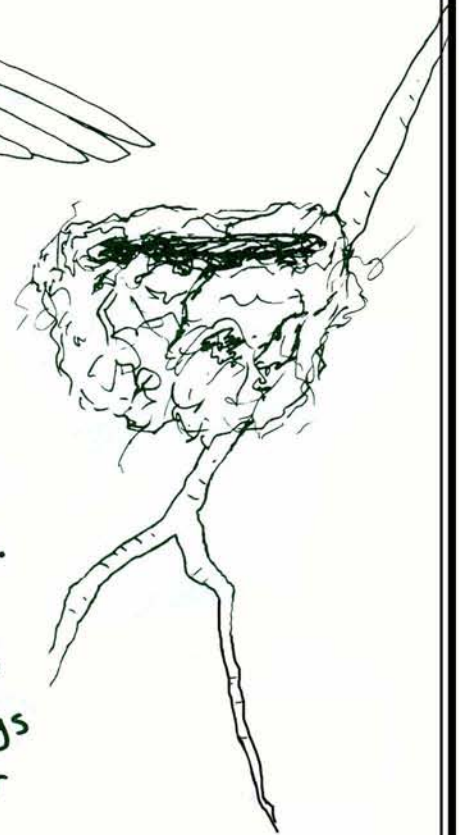
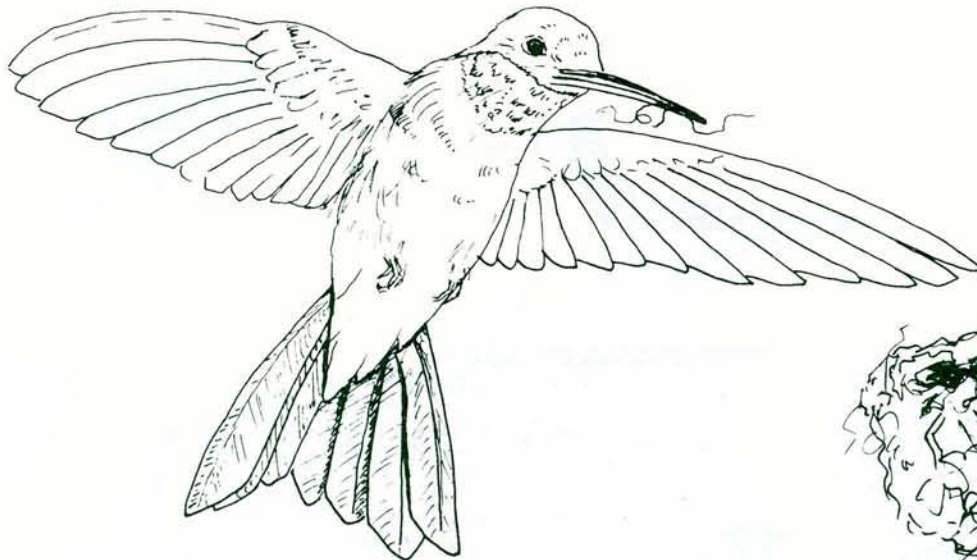
Hummingbirds can live only where flowers are in bloom. That is why they leave Georgia and most other states in winter.

But when ruby-throated hummingbirds are in Atlanta, they are not just here to drink nectar. They also find mates and build nests here. It is easy to tell the male ruby-throat from the female. He is very colorful. A bright, ruby-red throat sparkles in the sun. Females don't have the red throats.



# THE MOTHER HUMMINGBIRD MAKES HER NEST.

COLOR THE HUMMINGBIRDS ON THIS PAGE.



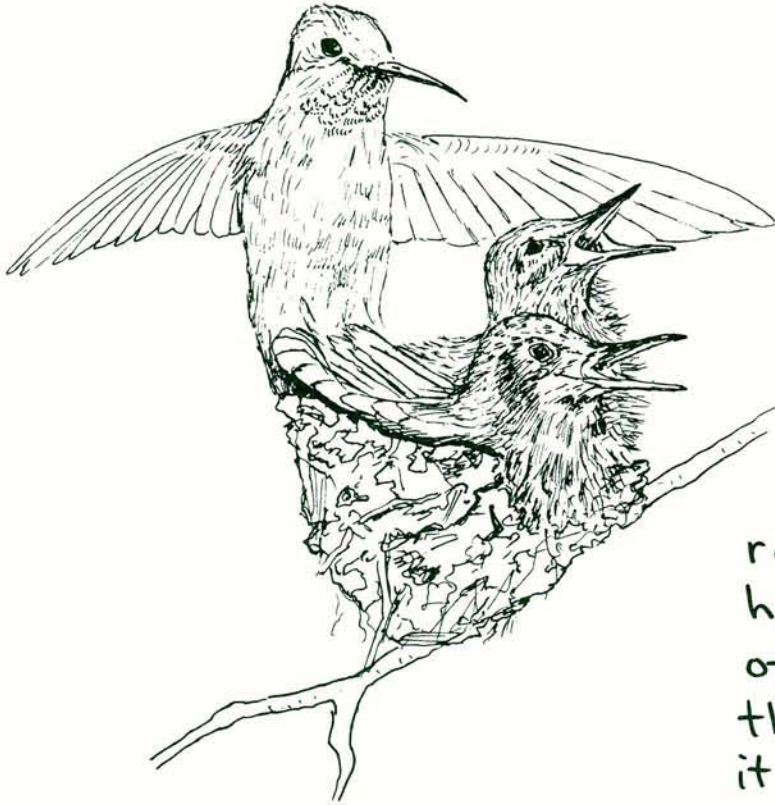
The mother ruby-throat works for several days to make her nest. She collects cobwebs, bits of grass and lichens. The finished nest is no bigger than a doll's teacup. She lays two eggs inside. They are no bigger than jellybeans.



The mother bird wiggles her soft tummy feathers over the eggs like a blanket. She warms the eggs whenever she is not flying in search of food. She must warm, or incubate, them for 15-20 days.

# HUMMINGBIRD BABIES!

COLOR THE HUMMINGBIRDS ON THIS PAGE.



When they hatch, babies, called nestling have almost no feathers. In just a few days, soft down feathers appear. Down looks almost like fur!

Hummingbirds prefer red flowers. They often have more nectar than others. When a ruby-throat finds the flowers, it gets very bossy.

A hummingbird will fight to keep other hummingbirds out of its territory. In fact, a hummingbird will even attack animals that are bigger, like squirrels, cats, and other birds.

When the female hummingbird is caring for young, she feeds them nectar she brings back to the nest.

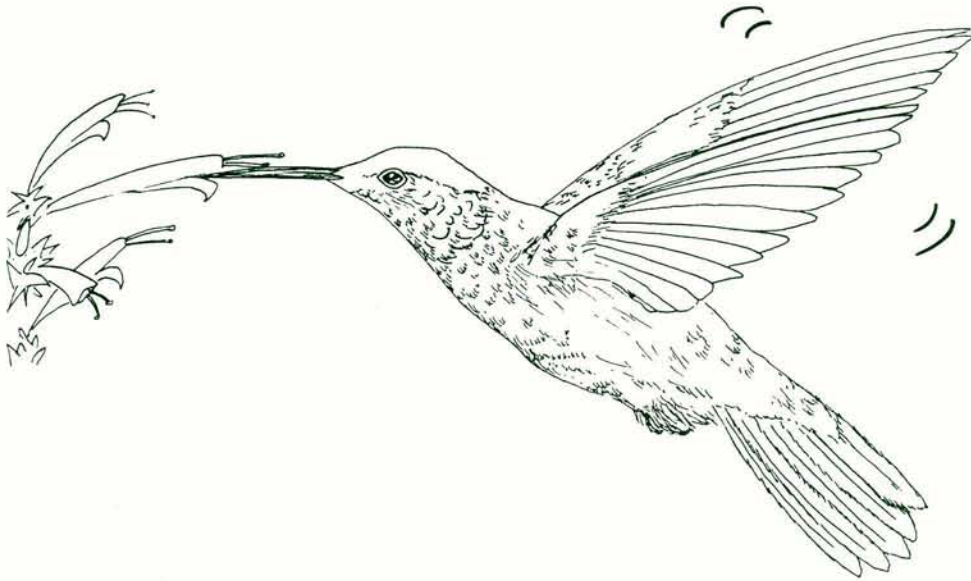


# HUMMINGBIRDS EAT!

COLOR THE HUMMINGBIRD ON THIS PAGE.

The ruby-throat reaches its long beak deep inside flowers and laps up the nectar. Sometimes it eats tiny insects as well.

In order to move from flower to flower, the hummingbird can do something no other kind of bird can do. It can fly backwards and sideways! Hummingbirds can even "hover" in one place while drinking.



Hummingbirds need flowers, but flowers need hummingbirds, too. Hummingbirds pick up pollen dust from flowers when they poke their beaks inside. The powdery pollen is needed for plants to produce seeds. The ruby-throat carries the pollen from one flower to another.

Look for hummingbirds wherever there are red flowers this summer. They are fun to watch!

## INVITE RUBY-THROATS TO DINNER IN YOUR YARD.

Hardware stores and pet stores have hummingbird feeders. They have plenty of red on them to attract the tiny "hummers."

If you buy a feeder, use the recipe below to make fake nectar:

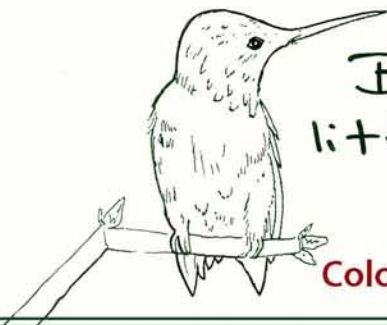
Ingredients:  
water  
sugar

Never use honey or artificial sweeteners.



Color the ruby-throat.

1. Put one cup of sugar into four cups of very hot water. The hot water helps the sugar dissolve.
2. Stir it well. When it cools, pour the liquid into your hummingbird feeder. Since the feeder is red, you do not need to add red food coloring.
3. Once a week, clean out the old water. It gets stale. Put in a new sugar-water mixture



Before long your colorful little guests should arrive!

Color the ruby-throat.

# HUMMINGBIRD GARDEN MATH

There are 20 white flowers in the garden. How many red ones? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many more white flowers are there than red ones? \_\_\_\_\_

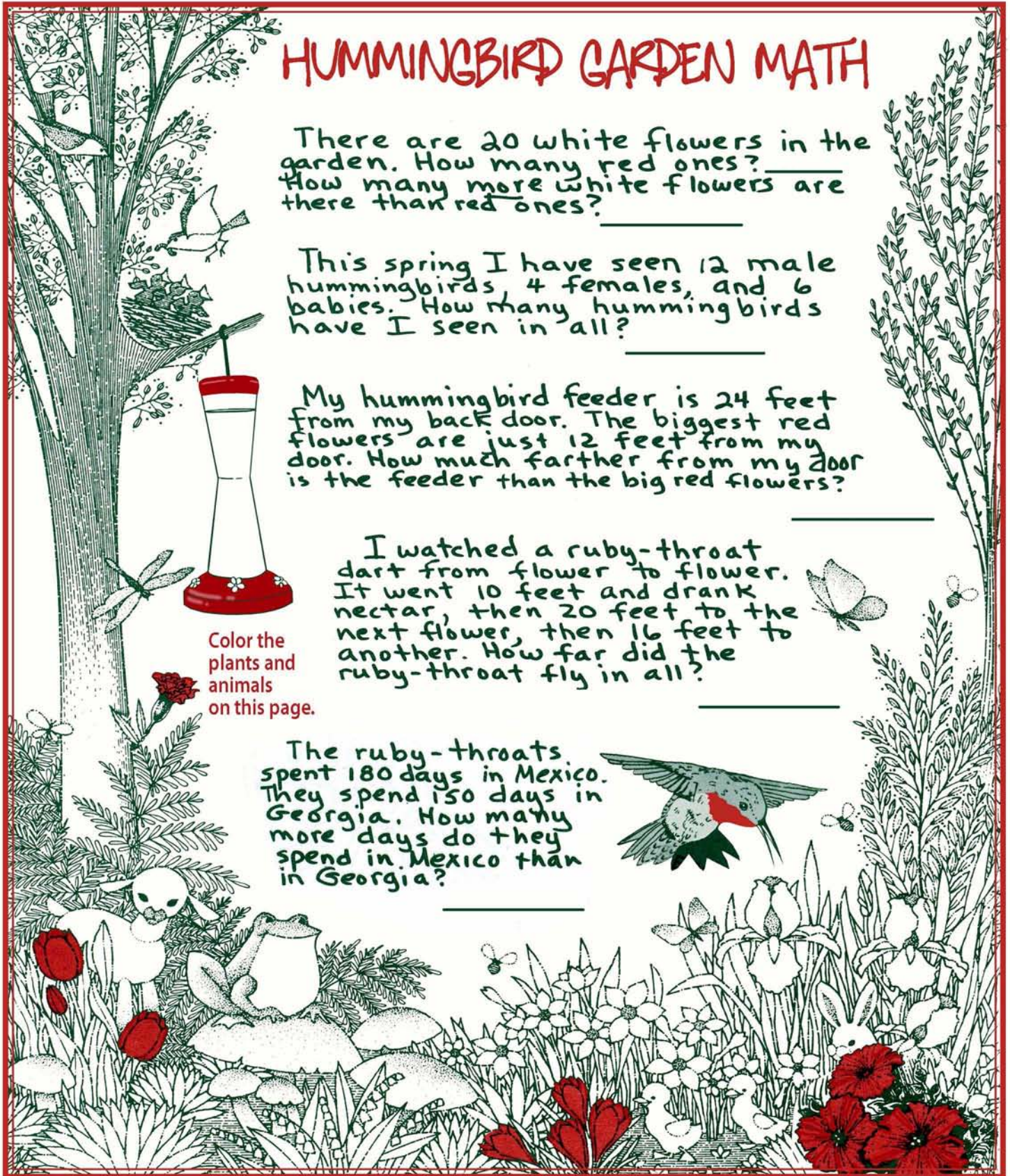
This spring I have seen 12 male hummingbirds, 4 females, and 6 babies. How many hummingbirds have I seen in all? \_\_\_\_\_

My hummingbird feeder is 24 feet from my back door. The biggest red flowers are just 12 feet from my door. How much farther from my door is the feeder than the big red flowers? \_\_\_\_\_

I watched a ruby-throat dart from flower to flower. It went 10 feet and drank nectar, then 20 feet to the next flower, then 16 feet to another. How far did the ruby-throat fly in all? \_\_\_\_\_

Color the plants and animals on this page.

The ruby-throats spent 180 days in Mexico. They spend 150 days in Georgia. How many more days do they spend in Mexico than in Georgia? \_\_\_\_\_



Primarily for U.S. is written and illustrated by Judy Cutchins.

It is the policy of the DeKalb Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, disability or handicap in its education programs, activities or employment practices.



Printed on recycled paper.