

**WE REMEMBER**

Fill in the blanks.

1. In a field guide, birds that are \_\_\_\_\_ or in the same \_\_\_\_\_ are put together.
2. Great blue herons may measure \_\_\_\_\_ feet (2 m) from wing tip to wing tip.
3. The symbol for a female bird is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Birds can have from 1,000 to 25,000 \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Mockingbirds \_\_\_\_\_ songs of other birds.

**nectar** (nĕk•tər). A sweet liquid in many flowers.



Say this word to someone.

## Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds

Several different kinds of hummingbirds live in North America. Rufous hummingbirds, Anna's hummingbirds, and broad-tailed hummingbirds live in the West. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are the only hummingbirds of the East.



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Ruby-throated hummingbirds are very tiny and very quick.

They can fly forward, backward, straight up, and straight down. They can hover at the same place in the air.

God knew they would need to do these things. Because hummingbirds eat **nectar** from flowers, they need to be able to hover. If they could not stay in the same place long enough to suck nectar from a flower, they could not eat. Some flowers have long blossoms. The hummingbird must stick its bill and head far back into the flower. If it could not fly backward, how would it be able to fly away?

God made the hummingbird's bill and tongue special too. Hummingbirds have long, slender bills. The bills can reach far back into a flower. Their tongues are shaped like a tube so they can suck nectar.

Hummingbirds also eat insects. They can find insects on the flowers they visit for nectar.

**Lesson 13**

Have you ever seen a hummingbird's nest? It is very tiny—only about 1½ inches (4 cm) across! The female hummingbird builds the nest of soft leaves. She puts moss on the outside of the nest to make it hard to see. Can you guess what she uses to hold the nest together? Spiderwebs!



**Circle T or F.**

- 6. **T**      **F**    Ruby-throated hummingbirds live in the West.
- 7. **T**      **F**    The female uses spiderwebs to hold her nest together.
- 8. **T**      **F**    A hummingbird's nest is several inches across.
- 9. **T**      **F**    Hummingbirds eat only nectar.
- 10. **T**     **F**    The hummingbird's tongue is shaped like a tube.



**Follow the directions.**

- 11. Name five ways hummingbirds can fly.

_____	_____
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_____	_____
_____	_____
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_____	_____
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_____	_____



**Look up *ruby-throated hummingbird* in your field guide. Use the guide to help you answer these questions.**

- 12. About how long are they?

_____
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_____



## Lesson 14

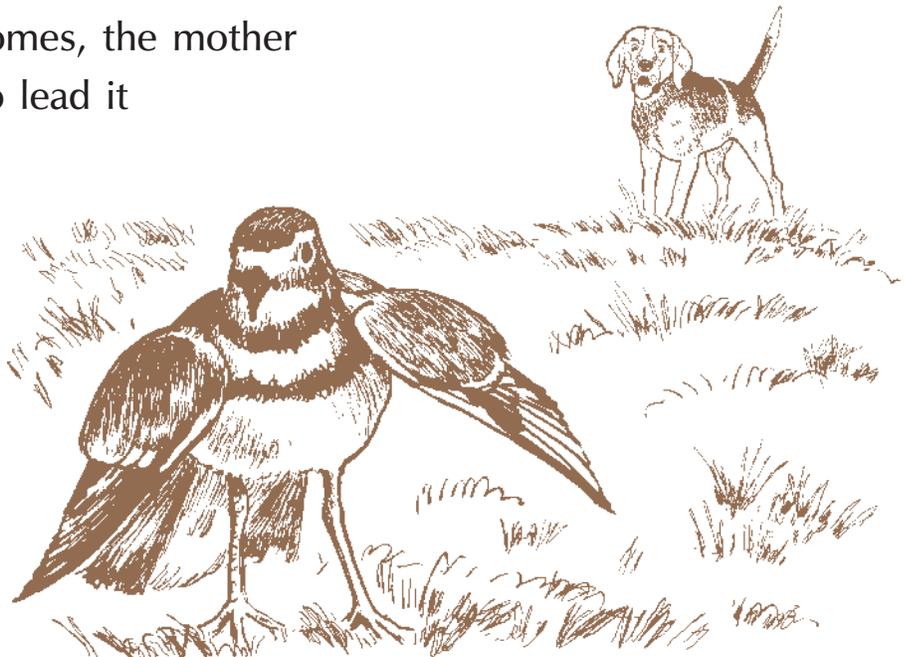
4.  are lovely gray, long-tailed birds that mimic other birds.  
a. Hummingbirds                      b. Mockingbirds
5.  are “crested blue chattering birds.”  
a. Blue jays                              b. Great blue herons

### Killdeer

If you live in the country, you have likely seen killdeer. They fly over the fields crying *kill-deeah, kill-deeah!* Can you tell why they are called killdeer?

Killdeer usually live in open fields. There they can find grubs and insects to eat. They nest in fields or lanes too. They do not build a nest like most birds do. They scrape a little hollow in the ground and lay the eggs in it. Their eggs are speckled. The eggs blend in with their surroundings. Enemies cannot see them easily. When the female killdeer sits on the eggs, she is hard to see too.

If an enemy comes, the mother killdeer will try to lead it away. She will pretend her wing is broken so the enemy will follow her away from the nest.





Fill in the blanks.

- 6. Killdeer cry \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. Killdeer lay their eggs in a hollow on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. A mother killdeer will pretend that her wing is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to try to lead an enemy away from the nest.
- 9. Killdeer eat grubs and \_\_\_\_\_.



Look up *killdeer* in your field guide. Use the guide to help you answer these questions.

- 10. What family of birds do killdeer belong to? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. About how long are killdeer? \_\_\_\_\_
- △ 12. Do killdeer live in your area? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Do male and female killdeer look alike or different? \_\_\_\_\_



Turn to the back of your LightUnit and color the picture of the killdeer.

