

Publisher Note

Porcupines have natural antibiotics on their quills — ouch!

Jellyfish don't have brains, eyes, bones, or hearts — yikes!

Chameleons have tongues faster than a speeding jet — wow!

Animals are amazing — exactly how God created them to be. We know that God created the heavens, the earth, and everything in it in the 6-day creation week because the Book of Genesis tells us so. On the fifth day, God created birds and flying reptiles and sea creatures while on the sixth day He created the beasts of the earth, including dinosaurs. He then created Adam and Eve on the sixth day and gave humans dominion over the earth.

The animals we see and marvel at today are the descendants of the original, biblical kinds. God's Big Book of Animals is an engaging exploration of the majestic animal kingdom that God has created. Readers will meet 60 different animals, ranging from birds to reptiles to mammals to fishes. Vibrant, captivating full-color images show these animals up close in the wild and from bats to bears, and turkeys to turtles, you will get to learn some of the most interesting fun facts about these amazing creatures.

Discover what they eat, where they live, and how they live—while also learning about how God has uniquely and perfectly designed each one for its own special environment and circumstances. It's a celebration of God's wisdom and the amazing animal facts that point to His ingenuity.

Special Thanks

Thank you to Orit Kashtan for authoring the original Hebrew-language version of this delightful book and to HaChotam Christian Publishing House for publishing the original text. Thank you to Shirley Rash for editing the book.

Thank you to Mike Belknap, Tom Hennigan, Dr. Jean Lightner, and Dr. Todd Charles Wood for their kind, gracious, and thorough assistance in both providing and fact-checking information on the animals' classes, orders, and families.



Table of Contents



Birds

1		Hummingbirds	pg. 8
2		Toucans	pg. 12
3		Pileated Woodpeckers	pg. 16
4		Crows	pg. 20
5		Vultures	pg. 24
6		Owls	pg. 28
7		Woodcocks	pg. 32
8		Seagulls	pg. 36
9		Geese	pg. 40
10		Swans	pg. 44
11		Grebes	pg. 48
12		Pelicans	pg. 52
13		Heron	pg. 56
14		Penguins	pg. 60
15		Turkeys	pg. 64

Insects

16		Monarch Butterflies	pg. 68
17		Moths	pg. 72
18		Bees	pg. 76
19		Wasps/Hornets	pg. 80
20		Mosquitoes	pg. 84
21		Flies	pg. 88
22		Fleas	pg. 92
23		Termites	pg. 96

Amphibians

24		Poison Dart Frogs	pg. 100
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Reptiles

25		Turtles	pg. 104
26		Alligators	pg. 108
27		Komodo Dragons	pg. 112
28		Marine Iguanas	pg. 116
29		Chameleons	pg. 120
30		Rattlesnakes	pg. 124



Mammals

31		Deer	pg. 128
32		Camels	pg. 132
33		Elephants	pg. 136
34		Gorillas	pg. 140
35		Rabbits	pg. 144
36		Opossums	pg. 148
37		Shrews	pg. 152
38		Mice	pg. 156
39		Squirrels	pg. 160
40		Groundhogs	pg. 164
41		Beavers	pg. 168
42		Porcupines	pg. 172
43		Skunks	pg. 176
44		Raccoons	pg. 180
45		Badgers	pg. 184
46		Otters	pg. 188

47		Weasels	pg. 192
48		Meerkats	pg. 196
49		Red Foxes	pg. 200
50		Wolves	pg. 204
51		Lions	pg. 208
52		Tigers	pg. 212
53		Grizzly Bears	pg. 216
54		Bats	pg. 220

Sea Animals

55		Dolphins	pg. 224
56		Beluga Whales	pg. 228
57		Atlantic Salmon	pg. 232
58		Great White Sharks	pg. 236
59		Octopuses	pg. 240
60		Jellyfish	pg. 244

Introduction

Get ready to enjoy reading how smart, funny, strange, and colorful animals can be and how all are living proof of the love and wisdom of their one and only Creator.

Have you ever seen a white or black swan? It is very large and looks so regal when it moves across the water. Have you ever thought about how such a large bird can fly?

Think about the camel that lays down in the hot desert. How can it lay on the hot, burning sand?

Have you ever seen how animal colors match their habitat? How do geese, storks, and many other birds know where to fly and where to return many months and many miles later, arriving at the exact same place they left?

Do insects have glue on their feet? Is that how they are able to walk sideways and upside down? How is it that woodpeckers do not get a headache after pecking again and again? Who taught termites to make their nests facing the sun? Why don't vultures get a stomach ache after feeding on carrion? How come octopuses can change color from red to black and sometimes from yellow to white?

You will find answers to these questions and more in this book. As you read, remember that these amazing creatures were all created by God in His wisdom and love, and remember to praise God for His wondrous works.

Special Note

The study of animal kinds from a creationist perspective (baraminology) is an exciting field. It is also one that is still being studied and researched. The classes, orders, and families given for each animal are based on the most up-to-date information available, through further research is needed for many of the animals.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! . . .
Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.
He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters,
Who makes the clouds His chariot. . . .
He waters the hills from His upper chambers. . . .
He causes the grass to grow for the cattle. . . .
The high hills are for the wild goats;
The cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers. . . .
The young lions roar after their prey,
And seek their food from God. . . .
O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all.
The earth is full of Your possessions. (Psalm 104)



Hummingbirds

Class: Birds

Order: Apodiformes
(hummingbirds and swifts)

Family: Trochilidae
(hummingbirds)

Description

Hummingbirds weigh around 0.1 ounces and are about three inches long. They are very small and light.

Hummingbirds have beautiful feathers. Males have dark-colored feathers, mostly green, blue, purple, and yellow, and females are usually black, gray, brown, and green. Their bills are long and curved. Its shape helps them consume nectar. Their tongues and tails are very long, sometimes longer than their bodies.

A group of hummingbirds is called a charm of hummingbirds. As is common with many types of birds, a male is called a cock, a female is called a hen, and a baby is called a chick.

Did you know?

Hummingbirds are not actual songbirds. They are called hummingbirds because their wings beat so fast that they make a humming sound.

Their hearts can beat up to 1,260 times per minute (most birds' hearts beat between 50–160 times per minute).

Hummingbirds are one of the most beautiful birds God created. Their feathers are bright green, blue, purple, and red. Male hummingbirds are more colorful than females.



Look at the birds of the air, for they neither
sow nor reap nor gather into barns;
yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not of more value than they?

-Matthew 6:26



Baby hummingbirds

The female hummingbird weaves her nest with feathers and plant fibers, tying them together with spider silk. The tiny nest looks like a flower sprout.

Baby hummingbirds are as big as bees (hummingbirds usually lay two eggs).



Small and hungry

Hummingbirds may be small, but they have big appetites. They have very fast metabolisms, second-fastest to insects. They eat 0.10 ounces of food per day. Such a large quantity for such a small body is like a person consuming 220–330 pounds of meat every day. Imagine eating that much food every day!

Hummingbirds need a lot of food because of the large amount of energy they need for daily activity. They constantly move, looking for nectar or small mosquitoes to swallow mid-flight. Hummingbirds have enough body fat to keep their energy throughout the day.

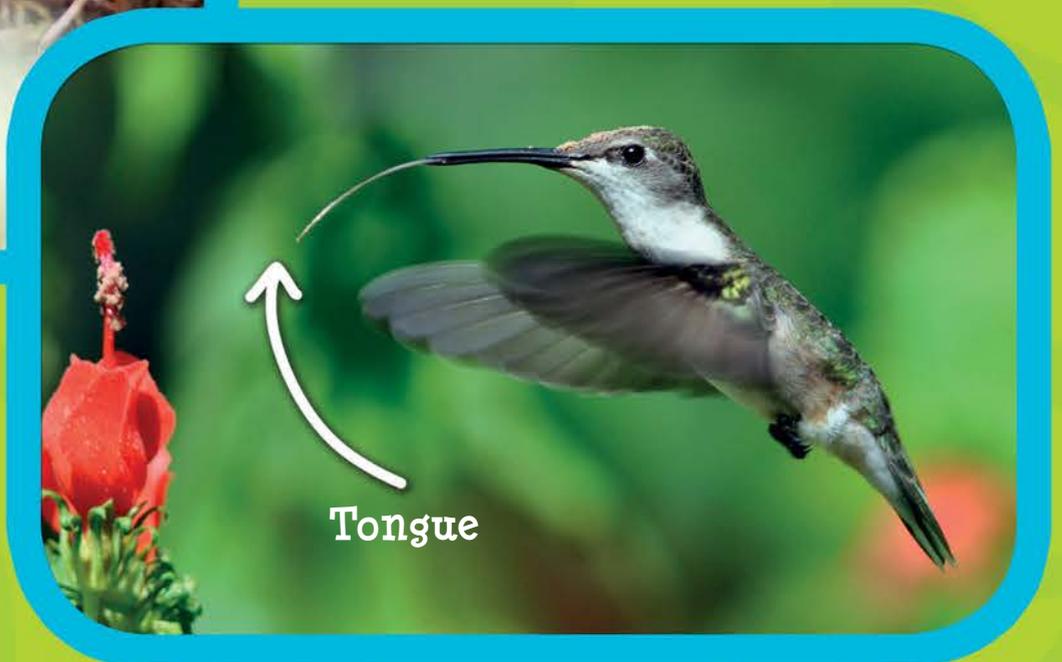
They need a solid, deep sleep at night because of all their activity during the day. They slip into a kind of hibernation called “torpor.” This state lowers their heart rate and breathing while resting their bodies.

Hummingbirds have unique bills and long tongues. Both are longer than their bodies.



Their long tongues

Hummingbirds’ tongues are textured. This texture helps them drink nectar. They put their curvy bills into the mouth of a flower and use their flexible, long tongues to trap nectar or insects.



Fun facts

Hummingbirds' wings flap so fast that it is hard to see them move. They look like a noisy, vibrating smudge. The only way to see their wings flapping is by using a special camera that can record fast movements. Some people mistake them for insects because of their size and the way they fly, but hummingbirds are truly birds.

They are curious birds that can adapt to human surroundings. If they find a source of food, they will visit it again and again. That is why some people hang hummingbird feeders a few feet away from their windows. Hummingbirds love the sugary water in the feeders and visit them a lot.



Great acrobats

Hummingbirds have strong shoulder muscles they use to flap their wings. Those muscles are one-fourth of their body weight.

Their shoulders have ball and socket joints, like the palms of our hands, with ten big feathers attached to them. This allows hummingbirds to rotate their wings 180 degrees in all directions, giving them their amazing flight ability.

Since hummingbirds can hover, they don't need to slow down when they feed. They can drink nectar while beating their wings as fast as they do while flying, and they quickly fly away when they've eaten their fill.

Hummingbirds are excellent acrobats. They can fly forward, backward, upside down, or straight up, like helicopters. They can even hover. Their wings flap so fast that you can only hear them.

