

A close-up photograph of a hummingbird hovering near a cluster of purple flowers. The bird is in sharp focus, showing its iridescent feathers and long beak. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The title text is overlaid in the upper right corner.

Our Fine Feathered Friends

*Enjoy an up-close look at some
of the hummingbirds darting
around Carlsbad's skies.*

Photos by Mark Rufenacht

Small in size and fleet in flight, hummingbirds are a marvel of nature—but their quicksilver movements don't give you much time to admire their finely detailed splendor. And that's why Mark Rufenacht's photos are such a treasure.

His images capture these blink-and-you-miss-them birds in all their glory. Rufenacht said his interest in photographing hummingbirds began when he realized how easily accessible and plentiful they were in his Carlsbad backyard and neighborhood.

"Although they move quickly—their wings beat at 53 times per second, they can fly 25 to 30 mph and dive at speeds up to 60 mph—I can capture their magic when using my Canon EOS R5 mirrorless camera and Canon RF 100-500 mm lens," he says. "The camera has an eye recognition function that allows the user to capture extremely high-resolution images of birds in flight with the click of a button. Having the ability to freeze the motion of these fast-moving birds allows the viewer to fully appreciate the beautiful color and definition of these fascinating creatures."





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