

Insights on hummingbird travel, life span revealed

November 9 2014, by Keith Ridler



Green Violetear at a flower. Image: Wikipedia.

Hummingbirds are giving up some of their secrets.

The perfecting of placing tiny numbered bands on their [legs](#) in the last decade has led researchers to discover hummingbirds can live longer than 10 years as opposed to the two or three once thought likely.

And astonishing migrations have been found, with one bird caught in Florida showing up a few months later and more than 3,500 miles away in Alaska.

In the United States, there are some 225 [hummingbird](#) banders, a skill so unique it takes years of apprenticeship.

Their steady stream of capture and recapture data is offering new insights into what for many is a delightful backyard visitor with an overabundance of personality.

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Citation: Insights on hummingbird travel, life span revealed (2014, November 9) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-11-insights-hummingbird-life-span-revealed.html>

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