

# Hummingbirds of the World

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God must've been toking some righteously resinous bud  
when he dreamed up these iridescent sparklers, these hairy-

tongued sylphs sipping daily from a thousand flowers,  
thirteen licks per second. Some kind of altitudinous, uber-crisp

exuberance begot these rubies and mangoes, these hearts lub-  
dubbing 250 times a minute, these glitter-bellies eating to live

to the tune of one-hundred times the metabolism of an elephant,  
brains 4.2 percent of their total weight, so they may recall not only

every quince, mimosa, weigela, flame acanthus, and trumpet  
creeper,

but the time it takes each bud to deliquesce. Adam receives

the Outstanding Namer of the Year Award for streamertail,  
starthroat and tufted coquette, steely-vented *Amazilia*,

the black-thighed puffleg, the gorgeted sunangel,  
the rufous-webbed brilliant. All hail, torpor! Nifty knack

for lowering to thirty degrees the thermostat on a hot-house  
baud, in this way surviving April, heartbeat slowed  
to a humpback whale's. Bearded mountaineer, empress  
brilliant, fire crown, coronet, you are all *joyas voladoras*, for you

I blanket the yard with foxglove, hot-lips salvia, little cigar.

