

PDF | Fastest Things on Wings:
Rescuing Hummingbirds in
Hollywood

by Terry Masear

Fastest Things on Wings

*Rescuing
Hummingbirds
in Hollywood*

Terry Masear

"This rare and lovely book is destined
to be a classic."
—STACEY O'BRIEN,
author of *Wesley the Owl*

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A heartwarming memoir by “one of California’s hardest-working hummingbird rehabilitators . . . will leave the average bird lover agog” (*The Washington Post*).

Before he collided with a limousine, Gabriel, an Anna’s hummingbird with a head and throat cloaked in iridescent magenta feathers, could spiral 130 feet in the air, dive 60 miles per hour in a courtship display, hover, and fly backward. When he arrived in rehab caked in road grime, he was so badly injured that he could barely perch. But Terry Masear, one of the busiest hummingbird rehabbers in the country, was determined to save this damaged bird, who seemed oddly familiar.

During the four months that Masear worked with Gabriel, she took in 160 other hummingbirds, from a miniature nestling rescued by a bulldog to a fledgling trapped inside a skydiving wind tunnel at Universal CityWalk, and Pepper, a female Anna’s injured on a film set.

During their time together, Pepper and Gabriel formed a special bond and, together, with Terry’s help, learned to fly again. Woven throughout Gabriel and Pepper’s stories are those of other colorful birds in a narrative filled with the science and magic surrounding these fascinating creatures. “This is a book about birds that is actually a book about love, and Masear does us a favor by risking heartbreak every day” (*Los Angeles Times*).

“I cannot believe what a gripping read this is.” —Robin Young, host of NPR’s *Here and Now*

“A book that will change forever the way you look at these little birds.” — *Los Angeles Times*

“This is a charming and lively summertime read, something for the patio or balcony, glass of iced tea at hand, a hummingbird or two zipping around the azaleas.” — *Dallas Morning News*

“I was riveted, charmed, delighted, devastated, profoundly moved, and taken to a magical place few people ever get to glimpse.” — Stacey O’Brien, author of *Wesley the Owl*



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