



Vision and stabilization in hovering Anna's hummingbirds

Jolan S. Theriault

Zoophysiology, AU

Hummingbirds use visual input to inform stability during hovering. They have a nearly 360° visual field, but their fovea is oriented laterally and their area temporalis, which has lower spatial resolution, is oriented forwards. The head and eye movements that are used to stabilize the retinal image during motion are biased toward temporal-nasal motion in most laterally eyed animals studied to date. These features led us to ask whether the hummingbird optomotor response varies across different regions of the visual field and whether it has a directional bias during hovering flight. Overall, we found evidence that suggests a specialization for specific types of optic flow in different parts of the hummingbird's visual field.



Friday, November 29th from 13.00 to 13.45 in the Zoophysiology Seminar Room (1131-127)