

Sure, birds know how to fly. But that doesn't mean they know everything.

# All About Bird Brains

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**M**y brain weighs about 3 pounds, and so does yours. Theoretically, every brain should be equal. But not long ago the subject of cognitive differences between sexes gained national attention, the scientific evidence suggesting—and this will come as unbelievable news to many—that the average human male is at least somewhat smarter than a male bluebird.

It's true. Human males are not the birdbrains we once believed ourselves to be. And here's proof:

For much of the past year, a male bluebird has spent nearly every morning attacking the mirrors on my truck in the driveway. Apparently, the myopic warrior believes what it sees in my mirrors is another male bluebird. It isn't. I realize the difference. Every other form of life understands the difference. But not the enraged bluebird, which flutters between the dri-

**Wildlife sometimes get baffled by mirrors. A male bluebird saw itself in this mirror, and spent several weeks attacking the mirror—rather lightly.**

ver's side and passenger mirror, pecking at the glass with as much ferocity as a bluebird can muster, flapping his wings angrily and leaving droppings everywhere.

As anyone who's ever studied eastern bluebirds knows, the territorial behavior of the male of that species involves acting really, really dumb—especially when it comes to the obvious. The bluebird spends hours pecking away at his mirror image. The more aggressive he becomes, the more aggressive his image becomes, and on and on.

By the end of the day, the mirror is covered with beak scrapings, loose feathers and, of course, bluebird droppings. Every once in a while it rains and the

bluebird takes a day off. In the morning, he resumes his work, nearly all of which has been washed away in the rain.

In his defense, the bluebird is actually making progress. There are now faint scratches etched semi-permanently into the glass. At this current rate of attack, my truck mirrors will be totally destroyed within 600 years.

It's important to realize a bluebird's brain weighs about as much as a pea. My brain weighs about as much as two squirrels. Do the math. Clearly, the intellectual superiority of a man with squirrel brains is indisputable. I offer as further evidence the fact that never—not once—have I stood in my driveway, arguing with the image in my truck mirror.

The image in my bathroom mirror? That's another matter. But only a man with squirrel brains could make that argument.

