LITTLE JEWEL BIRD
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"Mother, Mother, look! See what we found!"
Two pairs of bare feet came flying into the house.
Two pairs of bright brown eyes sparkled with excitement.
Mother looked. There in Leon’s hand was a wee little bird.
The little bird’s beak was long and slender. Its tail was very short. Soft, green feathers covered its back. The bird sat quietly on Leon’s hand, and looked up at them with bright little eyes.

“Isn’t it a pretty little bird, Mother?” Lily stroked it very gently with her finger.
“A tiny little hummingbird!” Mother breathed softly. “Where did you find it?”

“Out in the lane,” Leon answered. “It must have fallen out of its nest. I think it’s too little to fly. Can we feed it, Mother, til it grows big enough to fly?”
“I think it will soon be able to fly,” Mother told them. “See its little green feathers? But we will try feeding it.”

“What will it eat?” Lily wondered. “Shall I catch a bug?”

“Or dig some worms?” Leon added.
“Hummingbirds drink sweet nectar out of flowers,” Mother explained. “I think our little bird would like sugar water. Leon, you may put a spoonful of sugar in a cup and fill the cup with water. You hold the bird, Lily, while I find a medicine dropper.”
Soon the hummingbird’s breakfast was ready. Leon and Lily watched breathlessly as Mother filled the medicine dropper with sweet sugar water and dribbled it onto the bird’s beak.

“O-o-oh!” squealed Lily. “Look, Leon, look!”

The bird’s beak opened wide and the sugar water disappeared down its tiny throat.