

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Interagency Wildlife Task Group

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Calypte anna

Family: TROCHILIDAE
B287

Order: APODIFORMES

Class: AVES

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

A common resident throughout coastal California and much of the interior. Less common in montane regions, as summer resident only (McCaskie et al. 1979, Garrett and Dunn 1981). Occurs mostly as an uncommon winter resident in the Colorado River and Salton Sea areas and southeastern deserts, but breeds locally (Garrett and Dunn 1981). Occurs in most woodland and forest habitats up to mixed conifer, and in most scrub and chaparral habitats; also common in agricultural and residential areas. Absent from most Great Basin desert areas. Resident on Santa Catalina and Santa Cruz islands, and transient on the remaining Channel Islands (Garrett and Dunn 1981). Rare to uncommon in fall, and very rare to rare in spring, on the Farallon Islands (DeSante and Ainley 1980).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Takes nectar from many herbaceous and woody flowering plants (especially *Ribes* spp.). In addition, it eats small insects and spiders, pollen, and plant sap (Ehrlich et al. 1988). Hovers while probing for nectar and while gleaning insects and spiders from foliage and flowers; also hawks insects. Apparently relies more heavily on insects than do other hummingbirds (Pitelka 1942, Grant and Grant 1968).

Cover: Uses trees and shrubs in woodland and brush habitats for cover.

Reproduction: Nest usually placed in a wide range of locations in shrubs, trees (oaks, eucalyptus, orchard trees, and others), or vines (Bent 1940). Nest height usually 0.9-9.1 m (3-30 ft) (Johnsgard 1983).

Water: Nectar provides a major source of water. Fond of bathing (Ehrlich et al. 1988).

Pattern: Inhabits shrubby and open wooded habitats with nearby nectar sources and water. Residential areas with exotic flowering plants and artificial food sources support many. In breeding season, sexes show some habitat segregation; male in more open habitat, and female in tracts of evergreen trees, especially live oak (Johnsgard 1983).

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Yearlong, diurnal activity.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Mostly a resident year-round in the state. Breeders in the mountains move to lower elevations in the nonbreeding season. In winter, some migrate to the Colorado River and Salton Sea areas and deserts as far north as Joshua Tree National Monument. Spring visitants on the Farallon Islands are considered post-breeding wanderers. Fall visitants on those islands may be migrants, suggesting that there is some southward movement on the mainland as well (DeSante and Ainley 1980).

Home Range: Sometimes commutes to areas 700-800 m (2300-2600 ft), rarely to 1 km (0.6 mi), away (Johnsgard 1983).

Territory: Feeding territory usually set up by adult or first-year male before breeding, and centered around a rich food source. Breeding territory more actively defended and larger than feeding territory. Breeding territory also includes a rich, dependable food source; 0.09 to 0.1 ha (0.22 to 0.25 ac). Surrounding this core area is a poorly defined buffer zone ranging from 2-6 ha (5-15 ac) (Pitelka 1951, Stiles 1973).

Reproduction: Breeds from mid-December to mid-August, with peak activity from February to May (Bent 1940). Promiscuous; female nests solitarily. Usually 2 eggs per clutch (range 1-3), and in many areas 2 broods, possibly 3, raised per season. Incubation by the female, lasts 14-19 days; young altricial. Nestling period 18-23 days. Young tended by female for up to 2 wk after fledging (Stiles 1973).

Niche: Predators of eggs and young include scrub jay and a few climbing reptiles (Bent 1940). Prolonged cold periods exert heavy metabolic demands on these small birds, reducing food supplies by killing nectar sources and insects. Hummingbirds are important for hummingbird-pollinated flowers. Widespread planting of exotic flowering plants in recent decades has led to expansion of range to north, and increase in overwintering, in coastal California.

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