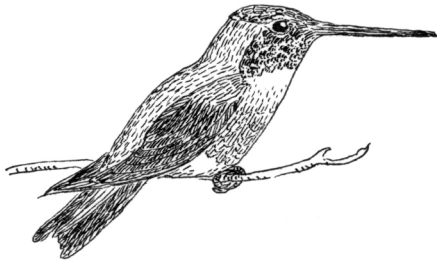


## ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

*Calypte anna*



Up to five species of hummingbirds occur in the Sacramento Valley, but only the Anna's stays throughout the year. Others stop over now and then in migration. The male Anna's head and throat appear black, and then flash a bright crimson when the feathers catch the light. The back and tail are green.

Anna's hummingbird makes a clicking sound while feeding, and the males sing a squeaky song from an exposed perch. In courtship and territorial displays, the male climbs high into the air and dives toward the ground. When pulling out of the dive, its tail feathers create a sharp chip-like note similar to the call of a California ground squirrel.

These are pugnacious little birds ready to battle over feeding territory. Special favorites of hummingbirds are flowers with lots of nectar. Spiders and insects are also on their menu. Their nest is a small cup made of plant fibers and fastened together with spider webs. It looks like a knot on top of a limb.

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