



# Nesting Anna's Hummingbird Observations

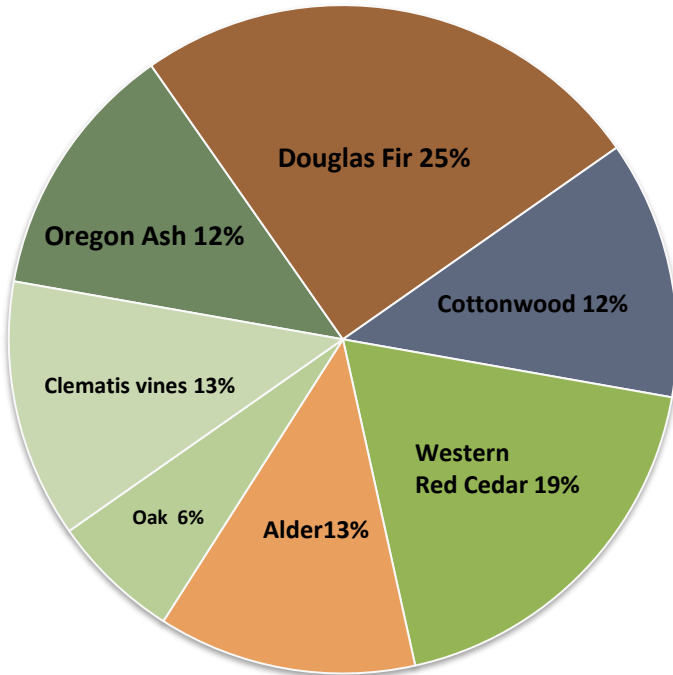
At Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge  
February 2024 to May 2024

*Beverly LaBelle*

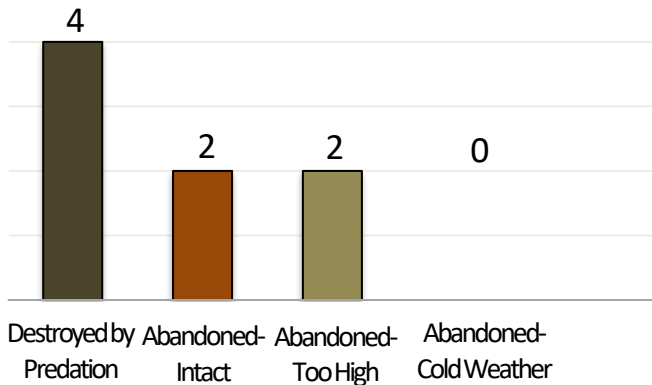


## Summary

### Types of Trees Chosen for Nesting



### Failure Breakdown



Nests located: 16

From Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> to  
Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 2024

Nests located from two feet to 35 feet in:

Cottonwood:	2 nests
Western Red Cedar:	3 nests
Douglas Fir:	4 nests
Oregon Ash:	2 nests
Clematis vines:	2 nests
Oak	1 nest
Alder	2 nests

Successful nests: 8

Total Fledglings: 14

Failed nests: 8

Of the Total Failures:

Nests destroyed by Predation:	4
Nests abandoned but still intact:	2
Nests abandoned but too high up to see how they failed:	2
Nests abandoned due to cold weather:	0



Female built her nest hidden on a branch in a Doug Fir



This Stellar Jay tore up the nest after the young fledged

## Anna's Hummingbird Nest Building

Typical nest building takes 3 to 10 days. Some hummingbirds take their time; others build their nests quickly. The first egg is usually laid before the nest is finished. During the next week, lichen is attached to the outer nest, making it blend in better with the environment.

Incubation lasts about 2 weeks, and the young will fledge 3 to 4 weeks after hatching.

Anna's Hummingbirds will re-nest for two reasons. If the first nesting attempt is successful, the female may choose to nest again. On occasion, the female will use the same nest, but normally will build another one close by. The second reason for re-nesting would be if the female's first attempt fails; in that case she would re-nest in another location.

## Observations in Oaks Bottom

Observations were taken 3 times during the week for 3 to 6 hours per visit. I spent the same amount of time looking for nests in 2023 as I did in 2024. I found **16** nests this year as compared to **41** last year.

Why were there 25 less nests found in 2024? In January, a system brought freezing rain and snow. For 4 days the high temp was below freezing. There were too many cold days in a row for a Hummer to survive, is my guess. In 2024, the first nest was found on February 10<sup>th</sup>. 6 total nests were found in February. 6 nests were located in March and 4 in April. In 2023, 8 nests were found in February, 20 in March, and 5 located in April and 8 in May.



Hatchlings were plucked from the nest by a predator



This is a female with a large throat patch and red head. She successfully raised 2 young.



Adult female feeding her tiny hatchling





This nest was torn open by a predator





### KEY

 Failed Nest

 Successful Nest

## 5 Nests were found in the North End of Oaks Bottom

### 0 Nests were found in the Wet Popular Area

This is the first year in 13 years that I have not found a Hummingbird nesting in the Wet Popular area. The first 10 years there had been many nests, that is why I named this wet area the most popular.

### 1 Nest was found in the North Meadow

**This 1 nest was successful:**  
(2 fledglings)

This nest was 35 to 40 feet up in a Cottonwood. It was the first nest that I located on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

### 4 Nests were found along the Paved Path

**3 were successful:** (5 fledglings)

**1 failed:**

This nest was found in the same tree as last year, and in 2023 it was successful, fledging 2 young. I found this year's nest on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup> I looked in the nest and there was 1 egg. The adult was on the nest incubating from February 28<sup>th</sup> until March 11th. On March 13th, I found the nest left hanging after a predator had destroyed it.



## Nest Locations: Bluff Path up to the Mausoleum



### 6 Nests were found on the Bluff Path up to the Mausoleum

**2 Nests were successful:**  
3 (fledglings)

**4 Nests failed:**

2 nests were abandoned. The first nest was in a Clematis vine which was found on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The adult began feeding on March 8<sup>th</sup>. She continued to feed and brood. On March 18<sup>th</sup> she had abandoned her nest.

I found the other nest on March 20<sup>th</sup> high up in an Oregon Ash. The adult was incubating. On March 25<sup>th</sup> she was not at the nest. The nest was left intact.

Two nests were destroyed. The first nest was found in an Oregon Ash on March 4<sup>th</sup>. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the adult was feeding 2 and continued to feed and brood until March 25<sup>th</sup>. I found the nest destroyed on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

The second nest was found in an Alder on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The adult was incubating and brooding. She continued to feed the young through May 8<sup>th</sup>. On May 10<sup>th</sup> the nest was destroyed. The young were very close to fledging.



## Nest Locations: South End Past the Mausoleum



### 5 Nests were found south of the Mausoleum on the Bluff Path

**2 Nests were successful:** (4 fledglings).

**3 Nest failed:**

2 nest were abandoned. One nest was found in Clematis vines on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The adult was incubating. During the next two weeks I noticed Juncos and Kinglets feeding around her nest in the vines. The adult seemed agitated. On March 27<sup>th</sup> she had abandoned her nest. In the other nest, the adult abandoned and left 2 eggs.

One nest was destroyed. The adult was feeding hatchlings when it happened.



## Additional Nest Photos – About To Fledge





## Additional Nest Photos – Fledge and a Nest in Silhouette





# Final Thoughts

## Where were the Hummingbirds?

16 nests were located

Out of the 16 nests located (41 last year), there were 8 successful nests (16 last year), 8 failed nests (25 last year), and 14 fledglings (34 last year)! This season ended in the last week of May, the same as last year.

It was so eerily quiet this nesting season. Gone was the chatter of Adult females vying for their nesting territory. Gone was the ability to find 9 new nests in one day! I looked and I listened, but I only located just a few.

The cold winter storm in January that lasted more than 4 days with subfreezing temperatures is the only reason I can think of why there were so few nesters this season.

I am hoping for warmer temps and more Anna's Hummingbirds nesting in 2025.

*Bew*

All Hummingbird and Nest photos  
by Beverly LaBelle  
All Rights Reserved

## Contact

Beverly LaBelle  
beverly.labelle@yahoo.com  
6325 N. Haight Avenue  
Portland, OR 97217  
503-708-3195

