



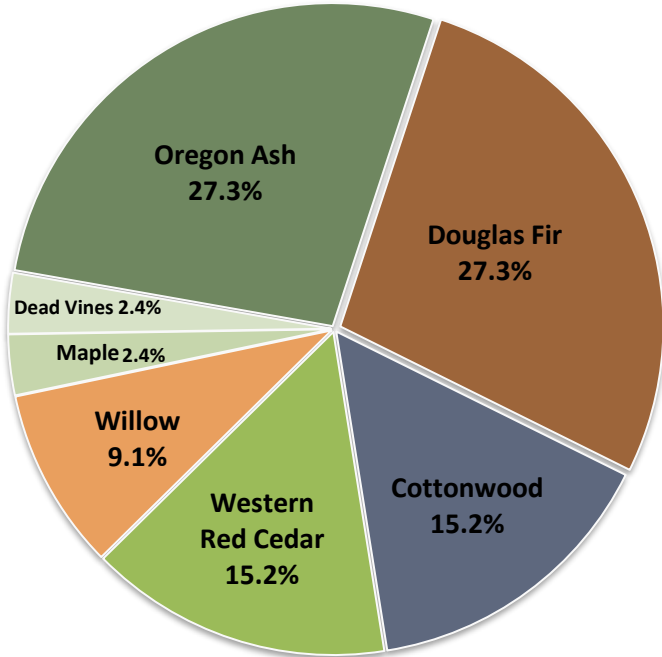
Nesting Anna's Hummingbird Observations

At Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge
February 2022 to May 2022

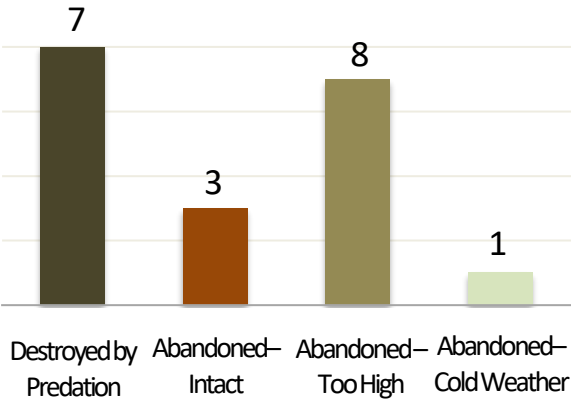
Beverly LaBelle

Summary

Types of Trees Chosen for Nesting



Failure Breakdown



Nests located: 33

From Friday, February 4th to
Friday, May 13th 2022

Nests located from two feet to 45 feet in:

Cottonwood:	5 nests
Western Red Cedar:	5 nests
Douglas Fir:	9 nests
Willow:	3 nests
Oregon Ash:	9 nests
Thicket of dead vines:	1 nest
Maple	1 nest

Successful nests: 14

Total Fledglings: 25

Failed nests: 19

Of the Total Failures:

Nests destroyed by Predation:	7
Nests abandoned but still intact:	3
Nests abandoned but too high up to see how they failed:	8
Nests abandoned due to cold weather:	1



Female building her nest in branches of an Oregon Ash



A predator broke this one egg into tiny pieces

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 2021 as I did in 2022. I found only 33 this year as compared to 41 last year.

In 2022, the first nest was found on February 4th. 12 total nests were found in February. 10 nests were located in March and 10 in April. One nest was found in May. In 2021, 8 nests were found in February, 23 in March, and 4 located in April.



Nest camouflaged among the branches of a Cedar tree



Same female? Nest built on same branch as last year



First egg laid in a nest that is only half built



A beautiful nest totally covered with lichen



18 Nests were found in the North End of Oaks Bottom

6 Nests were found in the Wet Popular Area

3 were successful: (6 fledglings)

3 failed:

All nests were left intact. The first nest was abandoned, up too high to see why it failed. The second nest had 1 broken egg and a hatchling was taken. The third nest had one broken egg.

2 Nests were found in the North Meadow

1 was successful: (2 fledglings)

1 failed:

The nest was half built, then abandoned.

10 Nests were found along the Paved Path

5 were successful: (10 fledglings)


5 failed:

1 nest was abandoned, up too high to see what happened. The female was incubating.

2 nests were destroyed by a predator. The young in the nest were nestlings.

2 nests were left intact but empty. The young were at the pinfeather and nestling stage.

KEY

 Failed Nest

 Successful Nest



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

2 Nests were successful:
(2 fledglings)

4 Nests failed:

1 nest failed due to cold weather. This was the first nest that I found on February 4th. 2 weeks later there was one hatchling in the nest. The second egg hatched 3 days later. On the next 3 visits, the adult was feeding and brooding her nestlings. March 9th, I found the young dead in the nest. She must have been away from the nest for too long of a time during a cold spell.

1 nest was up too high to see why it was abandoned. The nest was left intact. The adult was feeding nestlings. 2 nests were damaged by a predator. 1 nest was slightly damaged, the other was totally ripped off of the branch. Both adults were at the incubating stage.

KEY



Failed Nest



Successful Nest

Nest Locations: South End Past the Mausoleum



9 Nests were found south of the Mausoleum on the Bluff Path

3 Nests were successful: (5 fledglings).

6 Nest failed:

5 of the failed nests were intact, but up too high to see why they failed. All the adults were incubating when they abandoned. I saw with my own eyes how the 6th nest failed. The adult was away from her nest and a Stellar Jay landed and began poking at her nest. I chased it off, but I think the Jay already had taken the eggs. The next visit, the nest was completely gone. She was also incubating at the time.

Additional Nest Photos – About To Fledge



Additional Nest Photos – Fledges



Scratch, scratch, scratch!



Final Thoughts

A somewhat disappointing year!

33 nests were located

Out of the 33 nests located, there were 14 successful nests (28 last year), 19 failed nests (13 last year), and 25 fledglings (52 last year)! This season ended in the last week of May, just about one week earlier than last year.

I believe that most nests that are abandoned, but up too high to see why, are lost to predation. Possibly by a nimble bird or squirrel able to pluck eggs or young out of the nests without disturbing the nest. I am seeing more Stellar and Scrub Jays along the trails. This could signal more predation in the future.

Bew

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Contact

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

