



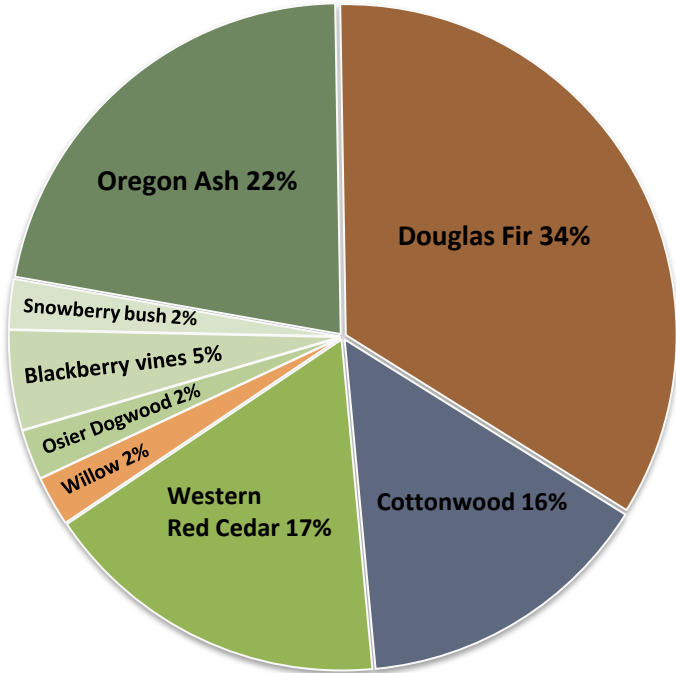
Nesting Anna's Hummingbird Observations

At Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge
February 2023 to May 2023

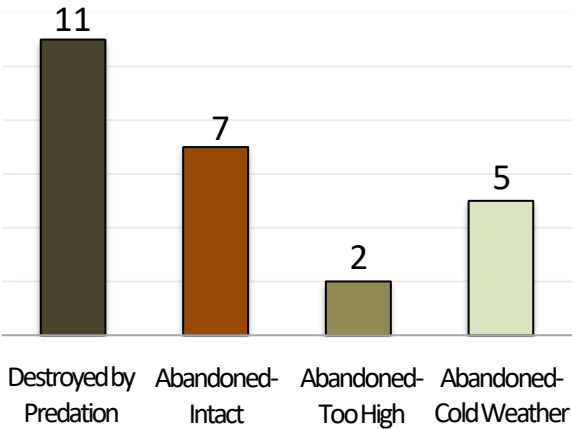
Beverly LaBelle

Summary

Types of Trees Chosen for Nesting



Failure Breakdown



Nests located: 41

From Wednesday, February 8th to
Friday, May 19th 2023

Nests located from two feet to 35 feet in:

Cottonwood:	6 nests
Western Red Cedar:	7 nests
Douglas Fir:	14 nests
Willow:	1 nest
Oregon Ash:	9 nests
Blackberry vines:	2 nests
Snowberry Bush	1 nest
Osier Dogwood	1 nest

Successful nests: 16

Total Fledglings: 34

Failed nests: 25

Of the Total Failures:

Nests destroyed by Predation:	11
Nests abandoned but still intact:	7
Nests abandoned but too high up to see how they failed:	2
Nests abandoned due to cold weather:	5



Female building her nest on a branch of an Oregon Ash



This nest was ripped off the branch it was anchored on

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 2022 as I did in 2023. I found 41 nests this year as compared to 33 last year.

In 2023, the first nest was found on February 8th. 8 total nests were found in February. 20 nests were located in March and 5 in April. 8 nests were found in May. In 2022, 12 nests were found in February, 10 in March, and 10 located in April and 1 in May.



Female incubating eggs on nest built in a dead Ash tree



This stick later became dislodged causing the nest to hang, losing the 2 nestlings




This nest was abandoned after the female laid 2 eggs




This adult chose to build her nest on a blackberry vine



KEY

 Failed Nest

 Successful Nest

30 Nests were found in the North End of Oaks Bottom

7 Nests were found in the Wet Popular Area

3 were successful: (6 fledglings)

4 failed:

All nests were left intact. All were abandoned. Two nests failed due to cold weather. The third nest had 1 dead hatchling and 1 egg and the fourth nest had one egg.

3 Nests were found in the North Meadow

1 was successful: (2 fledglings)

2 failed:

The two nests were left intact but empty. One nest had a broken egg, the other nest had 2 young.

20 Nests were found along the Paved Path

8 were successful: (19 fledglings)

12 failed:

3 due to cold weather.

1 nest too high up to see why.

3 nests intact but empty.

3 nests destroyed by predator.

1 nest had 2 dead nestlings.

1 nest came loose on one side.
(see photo on page 3)

I found a female feeding 3 fledglings while building a second nest. I never found her first nest.



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

No Nests were successful:
(0 fledglings)

2 Nests failed:

1 nest failed due to predation. I found this nest on March 6th. The nest was ½ built. The adult continued to add to the nest. On March 14th she was incubating 2 eggs. She continued to incubate and on March 31st the nest contained 2 tiny hatchlings. Every time I visited the nest, the adult was there, either brooding or feeding her young. When I visited on the 14th of April, I could see 2 beaks above the nest. On the 17th of April, the nest was empty, but intact. The young were at the pinfeather stage.

1 nest was up too high to see why it was abandoned. The nest was found on March 29th. On April 24th the adult was feeding 2. I could see 2 beaks above the nest on May 1st. There was no adult at the nest or in the area after May 3rd.

KEY



Failed Nest



Successful Nest

Nest Locations: South End Past the Mausoleum



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

4 Nests were successful: (7 fledglings).

5 Nest failed:

All five of the nests were abandoned. 1 nest was totally built, but no eggs were laid. Another nest contained 2 eggs. The eggs were taken by a predator and the nest was left intact. The adult of the 3rd nest abandoned, leaving 2 eggs. The last 2 nests were just nest starts, one was intact, and the other had been torn up by a predator.

Additional Nest Photos – About To Fledge



Additional Nest Photos – Fledges



Final Thoughts

Lots of nests and lots of failures!

41 nests were located

Out of the 41 nests located (33 last year), there were 16 successful nests (14 last year), 25 failed nests (19 last year), and 34 fledglings (25 last year)! This season ended in the last week of May, the same as last year.

A couple of odd things happened this year. One of last years nest was reused! The adult added new material, laid eggs, and was successful, fledging 2 young.

On April 26th I found a female building a nest. She was also feeding 3 fledglings! I did not locate her first nest. I have never seen 3 young from one nest. Did one of the fledglings belong to another female? If she did raise 3 young, it would be the first time I have ever witnessed it!

Bew

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Contact

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

