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### A NEW BIRD FOR OKLAHOMA: ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

BY POLLY KEATING

**F**rom the late summer of 1975 to 11 January 1976 a male Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) regularly visited a feeder at the residence of William Robinson Jr. and his wife Wanda in Tulsa, Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma. During the earlier part of this period several slightly smaller hummingbirds, all believed to be Rubythroats (*Archilochus colubris*), also visited the feeder. In August and early fall the colors of the Anna's did not attract attention, but its "larger, more rounded stomach" was noticed. During a severely cold spell, when the air temperature dropped as low as 1° F. early in the morning on 8 January, the Anna's visited the feeder frequently, as if more dependent than usual on this artificial food supply, but never during the entire



### ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

*A male bird that visited a feeder in Tulsa from the late summer of 1975 to 11 January 1976. Photographed on 8 January 1976 by Stephen Crane, Staff Photographer of The Tulsa World.*

several-months period did it appear to be anything but healthy and vigorous. It was observed by many persons, notably on 6 January, when 22 members of the Tulsa Audubon Society crowded into the Robinson home to watch it through the windows, but no one learned where it fed when not in the Robinson yard, or where it spent the night.

I first saw the Anna's on 2 January. Late that afternoon Mrs. Robinson telephoned me about the "strange" hummer, assuring me that it was at the feeder at that very moment. The Robinsons live less than a mile from us, so within a few minutes my husband (H. L. Keating) and I were at their house. We found the Anna's perching in a small plum tree in the back yard. Its upperparts glowed with metallic yellow-green. Though its head was in shadow we noted that the long feathers of its gorget extended back over the shoulders as they never do in a Rubythroat. Presently it flew to the feeder, which was at the edge of the patio about 15 feet from the patio door. As it moved toward us, the "hot pink" of its throat and the top of its head fairly blazed. Without doubt it was an Anna's Hummingbird, a male in full plumage. Fascinated by its beauty, we watched it until dusk. After its last visit to the feeder it flew over the house, so presumably it did not roost anywhere in the Robinson yard.

The following morning Joel P. McConnell, his wife Emily Sue, Elizabeth Hayes, Louise Potter, my husband, and I watched the Anna's from 0900 to almost noon. The McConnells, who had seen and photographed Anna's Hummingbird while residing in California, confirmed my identification. The bird fed from 0900 to 0910, left the yard, returned about 0940, and from then on fed intermittently, perching between feeding periods in the plum tree at the rear of the yard, a large oak, or an abelia bush not far from the feeder. That whole day was cold (17° F. to 32° F.), but there was no wind.

On 4 January, another cold day (21° F. to 30° F.), several persons who had not seen the Anna's waited from about 1330 to 1440 before it appeared. It fed intermittently, flew off about 1600, and did not return, though some observers remained on watch until dusk.

On 5 January the Robinsons observed the Anna's at the feeder for a short time during the morning, but they did not see it in the afternoon. Temperature that day ranged from 20° F. to 41° F. The continuing cold weather necessitated keeping two feeders going, one indoors, the other on the patio until the liquid started to freeze. Both feeders stayed indoors at night.

The temperature rose somewhat on 6 January (32° F. to 54° F.). That day 22 members of the Tulsa Audubon Society assembled at the Robinson house at 0730. The Anna's arrived at 0840. Many who watched it sat on the floor looking through the glass of the patio door. The exciting color of the throat and cap was visible especially when the bird flew from its perch in the plum tree back to the feeder.

Early on 7 January the thermometer stood at 7° F., and the north wind had a chill factor of -26° F. Genuinely fearful that their bird might not survive, the

Robinsons wrapped two stacked heating-pads in a pillow case, put this bundle on a table 6-7 ft. from the patio door, and placed a feeder on it. Bill continued to alternate feeders at frequent intervals, thus keeping their contents liquid. I lent him two of our feeders. One liquid that he provided was well fortified with vitamins and proteins, and this the Anna's took when sugar water was not available, but it seemed to prefer the sugar water. The temperature "high" for 7 January was 15° F.

The method finally devised for heating the feeder involved placing it on an electrically heated food-warming tray with an inch of fiberglass between it and the heated surface. The two feeders I had lent were "Droll Yankee" feeders with broad bottom surface, so they did not need to be changed every few minutes. The new arrangement was low and flat, rather than tall and narrow as it had been, but the hummingbird accepted the change without hesitation and fed at 10- to 15-minute intervals all afternoon.

In the early morning on 8 January the temperature fell to 1° F. and the slight wind had a chill factor of -15° F. Despite all our misgivings, the Anna's was feeding at daybreak. The heated feeder had been left out all night so that it would be available no matter how early the bird arrived. That afternoon reporters from the *Tulsa World* interviewed the Robinsons; the Staff Photographer, Stephen Crane, took color-photographs; and personnel of the KOTV television station took film that gave thousands of people a good look at the Anna's lovely colors. The video tape camera was placed within inches of the feeder, but the hummer was not in the least disturbed. The air stayed cold: the high for the day was 20° F.

On 9 January the temperature ranged from 10° F. to 43° F. By this time we no longer feared that the cold weather would kill the Anna's. To everyone's surprise it came to the feeder at 0730, long before the air temperature was above freezing, but so far as anyone knows, it did not stay very long.

On 10 January (32° F. to 58° F.) the Anna's did not visit the feeder until 1030, and it fed for only a short time. It visited the feeder intermittently between 1500 and 1600. The Robinsons observed it catching small insects in the air that afternoon.

On 11 January the Robinsons watched the Anna's at the feeder from about 0730 to 0800, but this was the last they saw of it. From 11 to 18 January the air temperature ranged upward into the fifties. The cold spell was over. The Anna's was gone.

The fact that no member of the Robinson household noticed any brightness of the Anna's head plumage before November suggests the possibility that the bird was immature. According to Robert S. Woods (in Bent, 1940, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 176: 376), the young Anna's "first gorget," though apparently complete, "still is lacking something in brilliancy and form, but [in the fall] it is almost immediately shed, to be replaced by the full perfection of the adult."

Louis Agassiz Fuertes's fine portrait of the "immature" male (1925, Bird-Lore, plate opp. p. 85) clearly shows the green (not red) of the top of the head and the red throat-spotting. The two male birds in the Crawford H. Greenewalt color-photo reproduced in "Song and Garden Birds of North America" (1964, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., p. 64) both appear to be immature; in neither of them has the crown plumage been replaced by "the full perfection of the adult."

5213 SOUTH TOLEDO, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74135, 1 MAY 1976.

## ANOTHER NEW BIRD FOR OKLAHOMA: PYRRHULOXIA

BY SEBASTIAN T. PATTI

On 28 December 1975 and again on 1 May 1976, a female Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) was carefully identified and photographed along a short stretch of Texakeet Creek on the Laurance Regnier Ranch about 4 miles south of Kenton, northwestern Cimarron County, Oklahoma. The creek, which is thinly lined with hackberries, cottonwoods, willows, and other deciduous trees, was "dry" on both dates, though where "holes" in its bed were deep there was standing water. Back from the creek, on higher ground, were scattered juniper and mesquite trees and clumps of prickly pear cactus. Those who saw the bird in December — JoAnn Garrett, Nanette Johnson, Jananne McNitt, Margaret Schulenberg, Jean Schulenberg, and myself — are all members of the Kansas



### PYRRHULOXIA

*Female bird photographed by JoAnn Garrett along Texakeet Creek near Kenton, Cimarron County, Oklahoma on 28 December 1975. Note that the bill is blunter and the crest longer than that of a Cardinal.*